



State of Utah

Department of  
Environmental Quality

Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D.  
*Executive Director*

DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER  
Kevin W. Brown, P.E.  
*Director*

**Drinking Water Board**  
Anne Erickson, *Chair*  
Myron Bateman, *Vice-Chair*  
Ken Bassett  
Daniel Fleming  
Jay Franson, P.E.  
Helen Graber, Ph.D.  
Paul Hansen, P.E.  
Laurie McNeill, Ph.D.  
Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D.  
Petra Rust  
Ron Thompson  
Kevin W. Brown, P.E.  
*Executive Secretary*

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.  
*Governor*

GARY HERBERT  
*Lieutenant Governor*

**DRINKING WATER BOARD  
MEETING**

November 17, 2006

1:00 p.m.

Place: 168 North 1950 West, Room 101  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116  
Kevin's Cell Phone #: (801) 558-7803

1. Call to Order – Chairman Erickson
2. Roll Call – Kevin Brown
3. Introductions – Chairman Erickson
4. Approval of Minutes – September 8, 2006
5. Mountain View Community Park, LLC Public Hearing
6. SRF/Conservation Committee Report – Vice Chairman Myron Bateman
  - 1) Status Report – Ken Wilde
  - 2) State SRF Applications – Rich Peterson
    - a) Circleville Town
    - b) Teasdale Town
    - c) Clarkston Town
    - d) Glen Canyon SSD
    - e) Orderville Town
  - 3) Federal SRF Applications – Karin Tatum
    - a) Central Iron County WCD Phase II
7. Approval of Executive Secretary, Assistant Executive Secretary and Acting Director – Kevin Brown
8. Mutual Aid Agreement (WARN – U) – Dale Pierson

9. Minimum Pressure Rule – Set Effective Date – Bill Birkes
10. Proposed Rule Political Subdivision Rule – Ken Wilde
11. Chairman’s Report – Chairman Erickson
12. Directors Report
  - a) Staff Update:
    1. Michael Grange
    2. Other
  - b) Board Members Website
  - c) Approval of the 2007 Board Meeting Schedule
  - d) Schedule December Board (Conference Call) Meeting to Authorize Administrative Filing for Adoption of EPA Rules: LT1, LT2 and Stage 2
  - e) Rural Water Association of Utah’s Annual Conference  
– February 27, 2007 – March 2, 2007
  - f) Twenty-five (25) Worst Drinking Water Systems
  - g) New/Upcoming EPA Rules Update
    1. Groundwater
    2. Distribution System
13. Update
14. Letters
15. News Articles
16. Next Board Meeting
  - Date: January 19, 2007
  - Work Meeting: 168 North 1950 West, Room 101  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116
  - Time: 8:30 a.m.
  - Board Meeting Place: DEQ
  - Address: 168 North 1950 West, Room 101  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116
17. Other
18. Adjourn

In compliance with the American Disabilities Act, individuals with special needs (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) should contact Charlene Lamph, Office of Human Resources at (801) 536-4413, TDD (801) 536-4424, at least five working days prior to the scheduled meeting.

AGENDA 13

UPDATE

# Compliance Section - Monthly Report

Sep 06

Printed 11/7/2006 09:10 AM

## Compliance / Enforcement Issues

### **Compliance Issues**

*Entered By: Hansen*

Beaver Dam spring redevelopment

### **Compliance Issues**

*Entered By: Hansen*

West Erda being taken over by Tooele County

### **DBPR and SWTR Management**

*Entered By: Johanson*

Entering Data and determining compliance on Monthly and Quarterly reports

### **Electronic Sanitary Surveys**

*Entered By: Oakeson*

John Oakreson and Elden Olsen are working closely with the local health departments and district engineers in preparing new surveys and processing completed surveys.

### **New Water Systems**

*Entered By: Cassidy*

Notified 06044 and 27093 of new water system status. Coordinated with Engineering and Special Services.

### **Population Changes**

*Entered By: Cassidy*

Made many population changes to systems in SDWIS, coordinated with all areas in Compliance and setup tracking in SDWIS.

### **Sanitary Surveys**

*Entered By: Oakeson*

John O conducted several sanitary surveys in the Southwest Health District. Randy Taylor, District Engineer accompanied him on some of the surveys.

### **TCR violation letters**

*Entered By: Keller*

Issue 1 acute quality violation letter to: Zion Panorama Subdivision for the month of August.

Issue 12 non-acute quality violation letters for the month of August.

Issue 13 major repeat, and 1 minor repeat monitoring violation letters for the month of August.

Issue 8 major monthly monitoring violation letters for the month of August.

Issue 6 major additional, and 6 minor additional monitoring violation letters for the month of August.

## **Compliance / Enforcement Issues**

### **TCR technical assistance**

*Entered By: Keller*

Provide technical assistance for TCR. Update and maintain violations. Resolve violations as merited.

### **Violation letters & Filing**

*Entered By: Yee*

Filed incoming and outgoing letters and other correspondence, filed sanitary surveys and chem reports, created and mailed bacti violation letters, finalized letters, copied and mailed them

## **Cross Connection Control Issues**

### **Letters, Certificates, Flyer, Filing**

*Entered By: Yee*

Mailed out letters and certificates, filed letters and certificates, mailed flyer, handled phone calls

### **Training**

*Entered By: Moss*

Cross Connection Control Basics training has been scheduled with Rural Water Association.

## **Emergency Response / Customer Complaint Issues**

### **Drinking water investigation in Ogden**

*Entered By: Lore*

I am working with a doctor in Centerville who is studying several cases of physical and mental impairment in children of a certain neighborhood in Ogden. We are trying to eliminate drinking water contamination as a possible cause.

### **November 29 Emergency Response Exercise**

*Entered By: Oakeson*

Elden Olsena and John Oakeson are participants in the design team for the DEQ Emergency Response Exercise which will be conducted November 29, 2006

### **WARN Steering Committee**

*Entered By: Dyches*

Met and went over the draft for the written agreement that will be presented to the water systems for signing as part of being a member of the WARN system.

## **Laboratory Coordination Issues**

### **Lab Coordination**

*Entered By: Hansen*

Coordination of New State Health Lab

## **Operator Certification Issues**

### **Letters, Flyer, Filing**

*Entered By: Yee*

Sent out flyer, mailed letters, filed letters, handled phone calls

### **Rural Water Conference**

*Entered By: Dyches*

Presented, proctored and scanned exams for the Northern Conference in Park City.

## **OTHER**

### **Meeting with Erda Acres water user**

*Entered By: Bousfield*

Met with water users of the Erda Acres Water System to discuss growth impact issues

## **Rule Development and/or Implementation Milestones**

### **LT2 and Stage 2 Implementation**

*Entered By: Johanson*

Dealing with systems on Stage 2 IDSE preparations

## **Sanitary Survey and/or Field Inspection Issues**

### **Sanitary Surveys**

*Entered By: Moss*

Several systems visited and field work completed

### **Surveys**

*Entered By: Hansen*

Surveys of Mendon and Clarkston

Other surveys completed Edge of Eden, Payson Lakes Campground

## **SDWIS Implementation Milestones**

### **SDWIS Implementations**

*Entered By: Keller*

Validate positive TCR samples and violations. Verify and compare SDWIS with file copies. NOTE: SDWIS identifies many violations witch do not make sence.

## **Training Provided and/or Received**

### **AWWA Intermountain Section Conference**

*Entered By: Oakeson*

Kevin Brown, Ken Bousfield, John Oakeson, and Eva Nieminski attended the IMS annual conference. Ken Bousfield was recognized as a 30 year member of AWWA.

## **Training Provided and/or Received**

### **Certification**

*Entered By: Moss*

Completed testing of backflow assembly tester applicants for one (1) class at UVSC

### **ESS training and support**

*Entered By: Lore*

I provided on-site and phone ESS support and training to various health departments including Tooele County, Weber- Morgan, Salt Lake Valley, and Central Utah.

### **RWAU Training**

*Entered By: Cassidy*

Completed training for the RWAU in Heber on sampling and the new monitoring schedules.

### **Stage 2/LT2 Rule Presentations**

*Entered By: Johanson*

Training on the new rules

AGENDA 14

LETTERS





State of Utah

Department of  
Environmental Quality

Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D.  
*Executive Director*

DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER  
Kevin W. Brown, P.E.  
*Director*

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.  
*Governor*

GARY HERBERT  
*Lieutenant Governor*

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Cross Connection Control Commission

**FROM:** Michael Moss, Secretary

**DATE:** September 25, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Commission Meeting Scheduled November 7, 2006  
1:00 P.M. in the Library Conference Room on the Second Floor  
of the Air Quality/Drinking Water Building,  
150 North 1950 West, Salt Lake City, Utah

A meeting of the Cross Connection Control Commission has been scheduled for Thursday, November 7, 2006 at 1 P. M. Several item of business need to be conducted by the Commission. There have been changes in commission members, rules and the program needing discussion.

I have attached the proposed agenda. Please notify me if you have any additional items which need to be on the agenda no later than October 20<sup>th</sup> that I might email the update to the members.

I there are questions, please call me as soon as possible at 536-0089.

Thank You

Michael Moss  
Secretary, Cross Connection Control Commission

**Meeting of the  
Cross Connection Control Commission**

**November 7, 2006  
1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.**

Department of Environmental Quality  
Division of Drinking Water  
150 North 1950 West, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Library Conference Room  
Salt Lake City, Utah

**Agenda**

- I. Call to Order
  - Introductions
  - Approval of Minutes
- II. Rule Change
  - R309-305
    - Composition of Commission
    - Selection of Officers
  - Fee Increase Status
- III. Update on Training Organizations
  - Utah Valley State College
  - Rural Water Association of Utah
  - Backflow Training Services
- IV. Certification Report
  - Class I
  - Class II
  - Class III
- V. Training Program for Class I
- VI. Proctor Availability and Training
- VI. Other Business
- VII. Adjourn



Board Packet

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**REGION 8**  
**999 18<sup>TH</sup> STREET- SUITE 200**  
**DENVER, CO 80202-2466**  
**Phone 800-227-8917**  
**<http://www.epa.gov/region08>**

**RECEIVED**  
**OCT 19 2006**  
**DRINKING WATER**

**OCT 17 2006**

Ref: 8P-W-TF

Kevin Brown, Director  
Utah Department of Environmental Quality  
Division of Drinking Water  
150 North 1950 West  
PO Box 144830  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4830

Re: Utah Operator Certification Program

Dear Mr. Brown:

I am pleased to inform you that the EPA has approved Utah's 2006 Operator Certification Program Annual Submittal.

Federal Register/Vol 64, No 24/Friday, February 5, 1999, P. 5921, Sec III, B.2 provides the applicable statement that: "All annual program submittals subsequent to the initial submittal must include documentation and evaluation of ongoing program implementation." After review of your state's package, we have determined that your program complies with this requirement.

Thank you for your continuing effort to maintain an effective operator certification program that helps to protect public health.

If you have any questions regarding this review, please contact me at 303-312-6260 or have your staff contact Bruce Suchomel at 303-312-6001. We appreciate the opportunity to work with you on this effort.

Sincerely,

Debra H. Thomas, Director  
Water Program

cc: Kim Dyches, UT DEQ

AGENDA 15  
NEWS ARTICLES

Beard**deseretnews.com**

Deseret Morning News, Sunday, November 05, 2006

## Measure would boost funds for Navajos

*Lawmaker says \$\$ needed to solve the area's water woes***By Deborah Bulkeley**

Deseret Morning News

Every time it rains at Navajo Mountain, ashes from last spring's fire clog the water system, making it necessary to truck water to the tiny Navajo Nation community.

The Navajo Revitalization Fund recently kicked \$150,000 into an effort to build a pipeline to Navajo Mountain, a three-year, \$5 million project to alleviate the area's water woes.

Rep. Brad King, D-Price, said the project is one reason he's sponsoring a bill to boost the revitalization fund's annual cap from \$2 million to \$4 million. The money comes from severance taxes from oil and gas drawn from the area.

"It's a terrible situation. ... Every time it rains, it does the same thing," King said. "Over 1,000 people all get their water from that area."

King's bill was unanimously approved by the Native American Legislative Liaison Committee on Wednesday as a committee bill, meaning it could bypass committee hearings during the 2007 general legislative session and move straight to the full House and Senate. Legislation to increase the Uintah Basin Revitalization Fund's \$3 million cap is also in the works.

The funds use part of the state's severance tax from oil and gas drawn from the reservations to provide grants to the Ute and Navajo nations and San Juan, Uintah and Duchesne counties for capital projects such as housing, infrastructure and government buildings, said John Harja, chairman of both revitalization fund boards.

The expenditures must be used on the reservations in Utah, and while both funds try to find matching grants, the Navajo fund can only partially cover the cost of projects, he said.

Eligible funds over the cap go into the state's general fund, he said. In fiscal year 2006, the amount available to the Navajo fund neared its \$2 million cap, he said.

"This year, we expect slightly over \$2 million," he said, predicting that reaching the proposed \$4 million dollar cap would be several years away.

In contrast, if the Uintah Basin fund had no cap, it would have drawn in \$10.5 million in fiscal 2006, Harja said. "Raising the (Uintah) cap would have immediate impact," he said.

The Navajo fund has been used to provide housing, power and water lines. The fund also chipped in \$100,000 for a modular building to house a Navajo court in Aneth.

The Ute fund has been used to purchase land for education buildings, including a Head Start facility, and currently is being used to help build a new government center and jail.

The bill discussed Wednesday would also eliminate the need for the governor's nod for the Navajo revitalization funds to be used. The language was intended to foster a good relationship between the state and Navajo nation but hasn't been an effective tool, Harja said.

E-mail: [dbulkeley@desnews.com](mailto:dbulkeley@desnews.com)

© 2006 Deseret News Publishing Company

Board

Get Quote: 

Find symbol

Search: 

Advanced search

Intuitive Decisive Smart People Ready Are you ready?

**Mutual Funds & ETFs**  
Exclusive commentary, investment tools,  
daily interviews, and much more!  
[Check it out now >>](#)

NEWS &amp; COMMENTARY

MARKETS

MUTUAL FUNDS &amp; ETFs

PERSONAL FINANCE

TOOLS &amp; RESEARCH

MY MARKETWATCH

TODAY'S VIDEO



THOMAS KOSTIGEN'S ETHICS MONITOR

**Bottle nose****Taste challenge aims to create wellspring of support for tap water**

By Thomas Kostigen, MarketWatch

Last Update: 10:44 AM ET Nov 3, 2006

**SANTA MONICA, Calif. (MarketWatch)** — There's still a Coke and Pepsi challenge going on around the country where people are asked to compare tastes. But this one isn't about soda; it's about water. And now Coke and Pepsi are on the same side of the table being pitted against water from the tap.

The "Tap Water Challenge" puts the bottled water claims of Coke's Dasani ([KO](#)) , Pepsi's Aquafina ([PEP](#)) and Nestle's Poland Spring to the test.

In a city-by-city tour, people are blindfolded and asked to taste samples of water to see if they can figure which is from the tap. Most can't taste the difference, according to Corporate Accountability International, which is sponsoring the challenge.

"Corporations ... spend tens of millions of dollars every year to undermine people's confidence in tap water, even though bottled water is less regulated and sometimes less safe," says Gigi Kellett, associate campaigns director at CAI.

A study by the National Resources Defense Council concluded that tap water is safer to drink because it's more regulated and tested more often than bottled water.

That's just one of the points being made by the Tap Water Challenge. CAI hopes to get corporations to reveal and label the water sources used for bottling, and publicly report breaches in bottled-water quality. The organization wants corporations to stop threatening local control of water.

"Our human right to water is at stake. Bottled water is the most visible example of corporate control of our water," says Tony Clarke, director of the Polaris Institute, an activist organization that takes on issues such as water, energy and trade.

Think what you want about corporate control of natural resources, but according to the United Nations, two-thirds of the world's population won't have access to enough water by 2025. Water is a huge problem and dilemma that receives relatively little attention.

The infrastructure for the U.S. water system is in a state of disrepair and is in dire need of an overhaul. Worldwide the systems aren't much better. China, for example, is trying to design ways to supply water for not only all of its people but also its burgeoning manufacturing sector.

Multinational corporations are taking big notice of this supply/demand equation and making big investments in the water industry. Supplying water is already a \$420 billion annual business, with strong growth estimates.

Bottle water is the smallest sector of the water industry (far more water is used to irrigate than is drunk). However, it's the fastest growing sector of the U.S. beverage market and is a \$55 billion a year business globally. Just three corporations, Nestlé, Coke and Pepsi, make up almost half of the U.S. bottled-water market. They are capitalizing on the trend that has swept the nation over the past 10 years where the consumption of bottled water has doubled. More than half of the U.S. population drinks bottled water, according to CAI.

**Local water works**

The way that affects our common water supply is surprising: more than one-quarter of bottled water sold comes from municipal supplies, according to CAI. Municipal supplies mean... tap water!

But corporations mostly get their water from springs and wells. CAI notes this directly impacts local communities by drying up wells and springs, or depleting wetlands and draining rivers. This all has serious implications for ecosystems.

However, communities and individuals who seek to block corporations from gaining access to their water supply often find themselves up against armies of attorneys fighting local control.

If you think it's all bunk, consider what happened in Bolivia six years ago. In a famous uprising known as the Water War, locals fought against the Bechtel Corp. for local control of their water supply.

Bechtel had contracted with the government to run the water system of Cochabamba, the third largest city in the country. But soon after taking over Bechtel hiked rates, reportedly by as much as 300%. People took to the streets with riots and protests and Bechtel's contract was eventually cancelled.

Organizations like CAI in 30 countries participated in a commemoration of what they dubbed Blue October by hosting things like the Tap Water Challenge. [Learn more.](#)

It's a good reminder for all of us to think outside the bottle. ☺

Board

Close Window

Send To Printer

## Dry winter looming for Navajo burg

### Broken pipeline, scarce funds may leave community thirsty

By Jason Bergreen  
The Salt Lake Tribune  
Salt Lake Tribune

Article Last Updated: 11/02/2006 02:46:07 AM MST

The people of Navajo Mountain have four days worth of water.

And if the spring-fed pipeline that supplies the isolated San Juan County community isn't fixed by winter, its 1,200 residents will be forced to continue trucking in fresh water from out of state at a cost of \$5,000 to \$6,000 a day.

"We can't quite figure out what is causing [the pipeline] not to work," said Rick Bailey, San Juan County administrator and director of emergency services.

For the past five weeks, four trucks carrying more than 22,000 gallons of fresh water make several treks from Shonto, Ariz., to Navajo Mountain, a 64-mile round trip.

Navajo Mountain is a steep, rugged area, where 97 percent of the residents are American Indians. Less than half of those over the age of 25 have earned a high school degree, and the median household income in 2000 was around \$14,000, according to [www.city-data.com](http://www.city-data.com).

The water shortage "is a pretty serious problem for these people," said Roger Hansen, the spokesman for the Bureau of Reclamation's Provo Office.

The Bureau of Reclamation has been scrambling to secure \$75,000 in federal emergency funds to continue paying for those water deliveries, which help satisfy the community's personal and sanitary needs.

"They are moving the emergency request through the system as fast as they can and we don't foresee any problems," said Barry Wirth, the spokesman for the Bureau of Reclamation's Upper Colorado Regional Office. "We're not going to be a part of leaving people stranded."

The most recent water problem at Navajo Mountain began in August when heavy rains washed away eight to 10 feet of soil that covered the pipeline, which connects a nearby spring to the town's water reserve tanks.

The flood broke or caused major damage to about two dozen 20-foot sections of water line. The Navajo Department of Water Resources has since repaired or replaced areas by laying new pipe, fixing connector joints, rebedding the soil and pressurizing the system. But for some reason, the water won't flow, Bailey said.

"Our problem is going to be if they can't get this pipeline fixed and winter comes and it gets snowed in," Bailey said.

Hansen is hoping the emergency funding will be available within the next few days.

Natural disasters, including a drought in 2002, and a wildfire in June that burned about 5,500 acres near Navajo Mountain have contributed to the corrosion of the aging pipeline.

Rainfall after the June fire loosened ash, soot and foliage, which clogged the water system's filters. Trucks had to haul water into the community for three weeks until the spring was once again usable, Bailey said.

Lynn Stevens, the San Juan County Commission chairman and Utah public lands policy coordinator, said Navajo Mountain's water problem recurs nearly every time it rains. But allowing the community to function without running water is out of the question.

"That's just a totally unacceptable solution," he said.

The long-term solution to Navajo Mountain's water problem is to stop using the spring and build a pipeline stretching from Inscription, Ariz., 30 miles away, to Navajo Mountain, Bailey said.

A rural development agency housed under the federal Department of Agriculture is willing to provide \$3.4 million to build the pipeline, but the money won't be available until 2009, after environmental and engineering requirements for the project are met, Bailey said. Navajo Mountain also would have to apply for \$400,000 in loans to help pay for the six-month project.

For now, the people of Navajo Mountain will have to rely on those daily truck shipments and bottled water recently donated by Wal-Mart and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

"We are able to monitor [the water supply] right now, but if the weather comes hard and heavy, it's a significantly more difficult situation," Bailey said.

[jbergreen@sltrib.com](mailto:jbergreen@sltrib.com)

This is a printer friendly version of an article from **thespectrum.com**  
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

Article published Nov 2, 2006

## **CICWCD looks at capital projects**

• **Board members face huge challenge, general manager says**

By **MEG CADY**  
[mcady@thespectrum.com](mailto:mcady@thespectrum.com)

**CEDAR CITY** - The Central Iron County Water Conservancy District will look at capital projects during its meeting tonight.

Scott Wilson, CICWCD general manager, said board members face a huge challenge as they look toward these projects, which include infrastructure, recharge and drainage projects.

These cover a wide spectrum of projects with broad public benefits that affect every water user in the valley.

Wilson said this will be a big issue for water users and taxpayers, and he's hoping to get their input on the projects as well.

Also during tonight's meeting, board members will look at approving the financial application and engineering contract for the Phase II system and an agreement with Washington and Kane counties with Vanguard Media for the Lake Powell pipeline.

Wilson said the board hopes to prioritize and plan needed projects.

"We're going to be talking about the whole spectrum of capital projects," he said. "We have so much to do and so little time."

The district plans to devote the next two meetings to capital projects and get a priority list before it starts budget hearings in December.

Board members have discussed draining Quichipa and better using recharge for years.

"Now we need to start looking at sites, we need to start looking at some costs," Wilson said. "Water projects require so much time and so much input."

Board members received an introduction to the Phase II system at their Oct. 19 meeting. It will include a 2 million gallon storage tank, new water lines and wells.

The project will take on 1,258 connections north and south of Highway 56, but the financing will include putting Enoch Valley Acres, Eagle Valley Ranches and Old Meadow Ranches onto the Phase I system.

Kelly Crane, CICWCD engineer, said the financial application will put the funding in place for the project through USDA Rural Development and the Utah Division of Drinking Water.

It will include low-interest revenue bonds for \$6.15 million, and almost \$1 million in grant funds. The total cost is \$7.8 million.

Crane stressed the project won't use taxpayer funds; impact and user fees will pay for Phase II.

"There's sufficient users to make it cash flow immediately," he said.



Close Window

Send To Printer

## People in line to protest water right

### But the county expects about half as many complaints as were filed in 2002

Patrick Parkinson, Of the Record staff  
The Park Record

Article Launched: 11/01/2006 01:00:00 AM MST

Facing two lawsuits that claim Summit County's Mountain Regional Water Special Service District broke the law when water was diverted from the Weber River, the government last week continued to deny the allegations.

"There has never been any question as to the fact that we have a right to obtain water along the Weber River," Mountain Regional chief Andy Armstrong said. "There is no question as to if we're stealing water."

But two lawsuits filed against the county by Summit Water Distribution Co. and Davis and Weber Counties Canal Company allege other people's water rights were damaged when Mountain Regional violated its permit by digging trenches in the river to recharge failing wells the county owns near Peoa.

The wells supply the Lost Creek Canyon Pipeline which pumps water from South Summit to the gated Promontory subdivision.

Since the controversy began, Mountain Regional has obtained a stream alteration permit from the state, Armstrong said.

But Mountain Regional must obtain a new water rights permit before investigators can likely determine whether county officials stole surface water from the river.

"It's a fact that the Weber River has been cut into," said Woodland resident Bill Miles, a Republican vying against Basin Democrat Bob Richer for a seat on the Summit County Commission.

Miles blasted Richer, the commission incumbent and one of Mountain Regional's chiefs, for allowing the alleged violations to occur.

Richer countered that the state Division of Water Rights hasn't declared the county has broken any laws.

The current permit for the pipeline, however, requires only groundwater be taken for Promontory, said Miles, who insists water rights officials differentiate greatly between surface and groundwater.

"They're not getting groundwater, they're taking water right out of the river," Miles alleged.

Richer countered, "Things aren't always as black and white as someone running for a political office can stand up here and say."

The incumbent continued to back decisions Mountain Regional made to divert water in Peoa.

"We're not taking a spoonful more of water than what we are contracted to," Richer said, adding, "We believe we've done nothing wrong."

Still, members of the public will likely protest the attempt by Mountain Regional to alter language in its water right to include surface water diversions, according to Armstrong, who calls the controversy a "gray area" in the law.

Nearly 40 protests were filed when the county was attempting to gain the original water right in 2002.

This time, Armstrong says he expects about half that many protestors.

Close Window

Send To Printer

## Feds OK funds to keep trucking water

**Navajo Mountain: The news pleases town elders who have been through rough times before and were preparing to weather the dry winter**

By Jason Bergreen  
The Salt Lake Tribune  
Salt Lake Tribune

Article Last Updated: 11/03/2006 02:11:14 AM MST

The elders of Navajo Mountain just shrug when told their community has enough water to last only four days.

They and about 1,200 others who live in the isolated San Juan County town already have weathered periods without electricity, heat or phone service, not to mention the occasional drought or snowstorm.

"These are people that are isolated," said Navajo Mountain Chapter President Leo Manheimer. "They're used to adversity."

But the elders are also glad that fresh water will continue to be trucked into Navajo Mountain from out of state while authorities work to repair a broken water system the town relies on for drinking water and sanitation.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation on Thursday announced the approval of \$75,000 in additional drought funding for the community. The money will be used to pay for trucks to continue hauling thousands of gallons of fresh water daily from Shonto, Ariz., to the town, said Roger HanÅsen, spokesman for the bureau's Provo office. The new funds are in addition to \$100,000 the bureau provided this year.

The Navajo Mountain water system was damaged by flash flooding from thunderstorms in August and October. Two dozen 20-foot sections of pipeline that run from a spring in Cha Canyon, and up and over three smaller canyons, were uprooted or destroyed.

Since then, the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources has repaired most of the damage, but there is still not enough pressure coming through the line.

"This is nothing" to the elders, Manheimer said.

When they were young, they scooped up rainwater from puddles for personal use, as well as to nourish their animals, he said.

"I think they just kind of take it in stride," Manheimer said. "I think the ones that panic are us, the elected officials. [The elders] kind of grin at it a little bit. But we care about their safety and their welfare."

A trickle of water does occasionally appear from the newly repaired pipeline, but it is dirty and has to be boiled before drinking, said Fern Kinsel, the community services coordinator at Navajo Mountain's Chapter House community center.

As of Thursday, a team of about 15 men, including engineers from the Bureau of Reclamation, had pressurized only the section of pipeline running through Cha Canyon.

Manheimer checks on the progress of the pipeline a couple of times each week and believes it should be repaired shortly.

"I'm pretty confident we'll have something going in the next three or four days," he said.

Board

**deseretnews.com**

Deseret Morning News, Tuesday, October 31, 2006

## American Fork to vote on water bond

**By Alison Snyder**

Deseret Morning News

AMERICAN FORK — The American Fork City Council is asking for voter approval in the Nov. 7 general election on a \$46.95 million general obligation bond to finance the installation of a secondary water system for the city.

"The city cannot delay action any longer," American Fork Mayor Heber Thompson said at a recent town meeting. "The city council has evaluated all the options and feels secondary irrigation is the best option to meet the city's long-term water needs."

Thompson said the city's current water supply is insufficient to support the current population, due to previous city inaction in providing for future growth and also because of the way water is provided to residents.

Currently, two-thirds of the water use in American Fork is dedicated to outdoor use. Thompson said the implementation of a supplemental, non-potable water system to supply outdoor demand would relieve the current drain on the existing culinary water system.

"The secondary irrigation system preserves our scarce culinary water for household use only and uses our generous supply of surface water for irrigation," he said.

The advantages of a secondary water system are that it is cheaper and it doesn't need to be treated, Thompson said.

But the city does not have the funds to install an irrigation water system, and the mayor and City Council said they feel a general obligation bond is the best financing option available to the city.

"We've studied the options, and we feel this is the best way to go," said Councilman Dale Gunther.

However, Gunther said he didn't think the council should make decisions about debt without public approval.

The bond would have about a 5 percent interest rate, Thompson said, and the city would end up paying about \$81 million back over the next 28 years. Construction costs for the installation of the system are included in the \$46.95 million estimate, but that amount is a maximum and the city would not be required to use all of it, he said.

The project would be funded by user rates and impact fees for new development. If these are not adequate to pay the costs of the system, other revenue sources such as property taxes would be used to cover the difference, according to a community fact sheet distributed by the city.

Residents attending the Oct. 26 meeting had concerns ranging from their rising water bills to irrigation water rights to construction.

If approved, the construction of the system would occur in three phases, beginning with the northern third of the city in 2007 and ending with the southern third in 2010.

As the waterline is finished in front of each house, a pipe would be extended to the property line and the owner would be responsible to connect any existing or future sprinkler or irrigation to this line. There would be no cost to connect or for the required initial inspection fee.

For residents who connected to the secondary waterline, monthly water bills would be expected to increase by about \$20, although it would not be required. Those who do not connect to the system would not have to pay the the secondary rates.

However, culinary water prices are going up, and the cost to treat water at a plant is rising much faster than current inflation rates, said John Schiess, the consulting engineer on the project. He said that if the city stays dependent on solely culinary water, the average water bill would increase well beyond the rates for a combined culinary and secondary system.

Water sources for the secondary system could include water from the Murdock Canal, American Fork Canyon surface water and CUP water from Jordanelle Reservoir.

If voters do not approve the bond, Thompson said water shortages will occur, growth may be curtailed and rationing measures would have to be taken. He also said that the City Council would take action in another direction to avoid the amplification of the problem in future years.

Board

deseretnews.com

Deseret Morning News, Monday, October 30, 2006

## No big changes expected at CUP

By **Suzanne Struglinski**

Deseret Morning News

WASHINGTON — Utah should not expect any big changes to the Central Utah Project under the direction of the Bureau of Reclamation's newest commissioner, Robert Johnson.

Johnson, a 31-year veteran with the Bureau of Reclamation, was sworn in as commissioner Oct. 17, taking responsibility for federal dams, power plants and canals spread out among the 17 Western states, including two dozen dams in Utah.

While he is still getting used to living on the East Coast versus his time living in Henderson and Boulder City, Nev., he is looking forward to heading the agency in which he has spent his entire federal career.

"It was an opportunity that I just couldn't say no to," Johnson said.

Johnson said he feels he knows the bureau's mission, programs, constituents and employees well enough to carry out its mission correctly.

"I am hoping to make a contribution," he said.

For projects in Utah, Johnson said he will continue the "good partnership" that exists now between the bureau and the Interior Department's assistant secretary of water and science toward completion of the Central Utah Project.

The CUP is a system of dams, reservoirs and tunnels designed to capture and use the state's share of Colorado River water. Water developed through the project is used for municipal, industrial, irrigation, hydroelectric power, fish, wildlife, conservation and recreation, according to the bureau.

Johnson is no stranger to Colorado River water issues. From 1995 to September 2006, he was regional director of the bureau's Lower Colorado Region, an area that encompasses southern Nevada, Southern California, most of Arizona, and small portions of Utah and New Mexico.



Robert Johnson

Deseret Morning News Graphic



Deseret Morning News graphic

He was the Interior secretary's water master and worked with multiple parties to improve the operation and management of the lower Colorado River and other reclamation projects in the region.

Johnson said Utah is "of interest" because it takes in both the lower and upper portions of the Colorado basin.

He was born in Nevada and has lived in the West most of his life, something he hopes will "serve him well in Washington," particularly when Congress or the administration needs a Western perspective on something as especially sensitive as water.

He has spent his first week trying to familiarize himself with the bureau's other regions where he has not worked and trying to prioritize what the bureau needs to do.

One of his top priorities will be to get through a list of 41 recommendations based on a comprehensive review that would help the agency run more efficiently. He'd like to get any new policies implemented by the end of next year. These involve everything from how many people the bureau needs in specific technical areas to succession planning — how to handle an aging workforce with many long-time employees getting ready to retire.

Johnson has received numerous awards during his career, including the Department of Interior's Meritorious Service Award and the President's Meritorious Executive Award, which recognized his long-term contributions to the

management of water supplies for the multi-state and international region served by the lower Colorado River.

*E-mail:* [suzanne@desnews.com](mailto:suzanne@desnews.com)

© 2006 Deseret News Publishing Company

**deseretnews.com**

Deseret Morning News, Saturday, October 28, 2006

## 3 bills exhort water conservation

*Days of cheap H2O are over, Rivers Council says*

**By Amelia Nielson-Stowell**

Deseret Morning News

To meet Utah's growing water needs, aggressive conservation legislation is needed from the state, argues the Utah Rivers Council.

But the Division of Water Resources says those conservation programs are already in place and legislators shouldn't ignore the progress being made.

Mark Danenhauer, Rivers Solution coordinator, presented three draft bills this week to the state Water Issues Task Force, all aimed at conservation in Utah, the second driest state in the nation.

"The days of cheap supply sites are over," Danenhauer said. "And now a cost-effective approach to meeting those needs is water conservation."

One of the draft bills would prohibit municipalities from enforcing ordinances that limit xeriscaping. A second bill would create the State Facility Water Conservation Program to encourage conservation at state facilities and would require state agencies to designate a staff person to oversee water conservation. The third bill would create an office for education and research and authorize the Division of Water Resource's director to appoint a state water conservation coordinator.

Rep. Brad King, D-Price, said he will probably sponsor the local landscaping ordinance and is looking for other legislators to run the remaining two.

"The reason why we did this is because this task force was given that responsibility, to talk about conservation," King said. "We have a bunch of things we need to consider here and in the future."

Part of that includes a state effort to reduce water use by 25 percent per person. The aim is to reach that goal by 2050, using the consumption level from the year 2000 as a baseline. From 2000 to 2005, there has already been a 10 percent reduction.

The bill to create a water-conservation office would increase that goal to a 30 percent reduction. But that bill concerned Warren Petersen, a member of the board of Utah's Division of Water Resources.

"The concepts in this bill are already taking place in the division," he said. "Why try to reorganize something that's already working?"

Todd Adams, assistant director of the division, agreed.

"These aren't new ideas. The bottom line is, we need money to implement these."

*E-mail: [astowell@desnews.com](mailto:astowell@desnews.com)*

© 2006 Deseret News Publishing Company

Board

Close Window

Send To Printer

## Tunnel plan: All wet?

### Utilities chief says drilling in the canyons would harm valley water supply

By Mike Gorrell  
The Salt Lake Tribune  
Salt Lake Tribune

Article Last Updated: 10/26/2006 11:42:42 PM MDT

Salt Lake City public utilities director LeRoy Hooton Jr. doesn't think highly of excavating tunnels that are bound to hit water in the Cottonwood canyons.

Never has, never will.

"We live in the second-driest state in the country with most of our population living on the edge of the Great Basin desert," Hooton said Thursday after a lengthy city Public Utilities Advisory Committee discussion of a new proposal to link Park City and ski resorts in Big Cottonwood and Little Cottonwood canyons with tunnels.

"Salt Lake City relies on those canyons for the water supply for more than 400,000 residents," he added. "We ought to do everything possible to protect our water supply. . . . This appears to be driven more by economic development and trying to draw more business into the area than trying to protect the canyons, which is my job and what I feel strongly about."

The advisory committee also looked askance at an idea floated by state Sen. Carlene Walker, R-Holladay, to consider transportation infrastructure projects that could link the three Park City-area resorts with four ski areas in the Cottonwood canyons.

Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr. has agreed to play host to a Nov. 3 meeting of two dozen "influential people in government, tourism and the ski industry" to discuss the proposal, which could include a two-mile tunnel between Alta and Brighton and a four-mile tunnel between Brighton and Park City.

A one-page "talking points" sheet suggested the "AltaBright" tunnel could cost \$250 million, while a \$50 million to \$150 million "CottonPark Interconnect" could tie Park City to Brighton by tunnel or snow sheds that would keep the existing, but seasonal, Guardsman Pass road open year-round.

Hooton said neither he nor anyone else in his department was among the influential people invited to the Nov. 3 meeting, even though he has been in charge of protecting the watershed serving Salt Lake City and much of the valley's east bench for more than two decades.

During that time, he noted, other tunnel and interconnect proposals have been raised. In the late 1980s, there was the Wasatch Supertunnel that would have linked Draper and Park City. The Mountainlands Association of Governments also pushed a ski-resort interconnect featuring tunnels, roads and cableways.

"Salt Lake City vigorously opposed both of those projects because we rely on the Cottonwood canyons for our water," he said. "This has been an issue for us since pioneer times. One of the first ordinances the city passed in 1851 was to protect the quality of the water in City Creek."

Public advisory committee chairman Cullen Battle said he was troubled that this idea was circulated without paying heed to the fact that Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County and the U.S. Forest Service all have master plans for the central Wasatch Mountains, documents adopted following extensive public processes.

"That tells me this is a misguided initiative," he said. "They don't know enough to initiate their proposal at the proper place. It has to start as an amendment to these existing plans, and there has been no effort to do this. . . . This seems to be an effort to do it as a top-down decision."

Loren Kroenke, supervisor of the Forest Service's Salt Lake District office, said he was informed verbally of the Nov. 3 meeting by ski-area representatives. He welcomed the meeting as a "good opportunity to be in the front end of discussing whether these transportation issues have merit." To the Forest Service, Kroenke added, water quality is "one of the very most important issues."

Shane Pace, Sandy's public utilities director, said he did not want to dismiss the notion without hearing what proponents have to say. But with Sandy owning the rights to 34 percent of the water coming out of upper Little Cottonwood Canyon, "we have the same concerns as LeRoy about protecting the Albion Basin. We need to keep that area pristine and would be concerned about anything that would damage that watershed."

Hooton is convinced any tunnel project would do that. "Anybody in mining knows when you dig tunnels you run into water," he said. "If they want to start drilling tunnels between Park City and Big Cottonwood, or between the two canyons, that may change the hydrology of those canyons and the streams the people in the valley rely on for drinking water."

mikeg@sltrib.com

Close Window

Send To Printer

## Do more to save water, activists urge the state

### Proposals include a more positive approach to xeriscaping, and less per capita water use

By Joe Baird  
The Salt Lake Tribune  
Salt Lake Tribune

Article Last Updated:10/27/2006 12:42:59 AM MDT

An environmental group this week urged Utah lawmakers to ramp up the state's water conservation efforts - and presented a plan for doing so.

The Utah Rivers Council introduced a sweeping series of proposals to the Legislature's Water Issues Task Force at the Capitol, including draft legislation that would provide more flexibility in municipal landscaping ordinances, the creation of a state water conservation office and a program for water conservation in state facilities.

The group also called for the state to recast its water conservation goal by calling for a 30 percent decrease in per capita water use by 2050. The state's current goal is a 25 percent reduction.

"These proposals are very preliminary, but we wanted to open the door for dialogue," said Mark Danenhauer, the Utah Rivers Council's rivers solutions coordinator.

Danenhauer noted that the state has made significant water conservation strides in the past decade, lowering its daily per capita water use from 321 gallons to 264 gallons - an 18 percent decrease. But he added that Utah can do much more, and cited recent public opinion polls that showed wide support for stronger water conservation measures.

Relatively speaking, "Water conservation is underfunded in Utah," Danenhauer said, contrasting the \$200,000 the Utah Division of Water Resources is spending this year on conservation programs versus the nearly \$4 million for the planning and construction of water projects.

The three draft bills, which Rep. Brad King, D-Price, has agreed to sponsor, essentially put the state in a more proactive role when it comes to promoting and implementing water conservation measures, Danenhauer said.

In addition to the draft legislation, the conservation group has proposed establishing a water conservation matching grants program that could provide up to an 80 percent matching grants to municipalities that create water conservation plans and implement them.

Division of Water Resources officials say they support many of the goals of the Utah River Council's proposal, but pointed out that some of the same ideas sit on their drawing board - and have thus far lacked funding.

"A lot of this is already taking place in the division," said Warren Peterson, a member of the Utah Board of Water Resources. "What you'd be doing is creating fieldoms that wouldn't have the economies of scale that the division does."

"I'm not saying more can't be done. What I am saying is that a lot of this is already in place."

But Danenhauer argued that his group's proposal will lead to savings, not just in water, but money.

Developing water projects has become "an old-fashioned solution, because the days of cheap water are over," he said. "Conservation is really a way to develop new water sources."

*jbaird@sltrib.com*

#### A plan for saving water

Highlights of the water conservation proposal the Utah Rivers Council presented to legislators this week:

\* **FLEXIBILITY IN LANDSCAPING ORDINANCES:** The plan seeks to clear up what are often ambiguous and conflicting city and county landscaping ordinances. Under the proposed legislation, municipalities would no longer be allowed to prohibit or limit the installation of low-water landscaping, such as xeriscaping.

\* **CREATION OF A STATE WATER CONSERVATION OFFICE:** A proposed bill would allow the state to coordinate its various water conservation efforts with a dedicated staff and budget.

\* **ENCOURAGE WATER CONSERVATION IN STATE FACILITIES:** This would provide "a mechanism" to identify water conservation goals while analyzing opportunities. The proposed legislation would cover state buildings and parks.



Board

This is a printer friendly version of an article from **thespectrum.com**  
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

Back

Article published Oct 26, 2006

## Senate hopefuls weigh in on water

By MEG CADY  
mcady@thespectrum.com

CEDAR CITY - As growth threatens the water resources in Southern Utah, water issues are at the top of the list for Senate District 28 candidates Emily Hollingshead, Dennis Stowell and Woodard Westfall.

Hollingshead, a Democrat, and Westfall, the Constitution Party candidate, agreed the first issue that needs to be addressed is how the Central Iron County Water Conservancy District is managed.

Stowell, the Republican Party candidate, said he has several water goals as senator, including better recharge and properly allocating water.

### Water issues

All candidates agreed the area needs more water.

"I feel that if our growth does what all the experts say it's going to do, then we need to be very concerned about our water situation," Hollingshead said.

She believes residents could use their water resources smarter; she promotes conservation and water-friendly landscaping.

"We should always be cognizant of trying to conserve," she said. "We just need to be smart about any decision we make about water. I think we can do that as a community if we just give it a little effort."

Westfall and Stowell believe residents are making a good effort with conserving water resources.

But, Stowell added, recharging water from Quichipa Lake is a big problem.

It's shame to let water sit and evaporate, and he wants to get a long-term plan in place.

"I think that's a priority project for us," he said.

He said projects like secondary irrigation systems also should come into the equation. Another part of that is protecting the counties' watersheds.

"We need to do some planning," he said. "The counties and the cities need to be active participants in protecting those water sheds."

### Water district

As she's spoken with voters, Hollingshead said, the first concern that comes up is the Central Iron County Water Conservancy District.

The Legislature gave the district power to raise taxes, and state law allows board members to be appointed.

Both Hollingshead and Westfall believe board members should be elected.

"I think we could change the law so water boards are elected," Hollingshead said.

Westfall said his biggest concern is "taxation without representation."

As appointed officials, board members can pass responsibility back and forth with the county commission.

Stowell said his goals for the Senate include protecting water rights holders from the state taking them away, or from outsiders taking Utah water.

Residents in Millard County are threatened by Las Vegas taking their water in Snake Valley, and he plans to make sure an agreement would mitigate that.

"I intend to be involved in that agreement," he said.

He also plans to work with the CICWCD and nearby counties in its search for additional water. He hopes to help facilitate discussions on the district's recent application for 37,000 acre feet of water.

"It's a delicate situation," he said.

#### Lake Powell pipeline

Each candidate is holding off judgment on the Lake Powell pipeline.

Hollingshead said it's something the area needs to look at, but she's concerned state officials don't know how much it will cost.

Westfall and Stowell agreed that exploring water resources is good and Utah's water should stay in the state.

"We as a state should find a way to use that water," Stowell said. "We need to look at what our options are. We're threatened with losing that water if we don't react."

Westfall said he's unsure about the pipeline.

"I don't know if it's necessary at this time," he said. "We ought to look at other means of getting it done. We don't need more taxes (to pay for it)."

Stowell said he's happy to put the project to a vote, but it's too early for that.

"We don't have enough information about it," he said.

Stowell added Iron County should participate in the current process of securing water rights, rights of way for the pipeline and studying the project.

"We need to stay on the train for Lake Powell and see if we can get our hands on those water rights," Stowell said. "Now that doesn't mean we have to build the pipeline; we're a long way from that."

Hollingshead said she's unsure Utah will secure the water shares; the state should lay out the details and expectations for voters first.

"It's important that we don't put the cart before the horse," she said.

Close Window

Send To Printer

## Environmental group calls on state to broaden water conservation efforts

By Joe Baird  
The Salt Lake Tribune  
Salt Lake Tribune

Article Last Updated: 10/26/2006 06:37:18 AM MDT

Posted: 6:33 AM- An environmental group on Wednesday urged Utah lawmakers to ramp up the state's water conservation efforts - and presented a plan for doing so.

The Utah Rivers Council introduced a sweeping series of proposals to the Legislature's Water Issues Task Force at the Capitol, including draft legislation that would provide more flexibility in municipal landscaping ordinances, the creation of a state water conservation office and a program for water conservation in state facilities.

The group also urged the state to recast its water conservation goal by calling for a 30 percent decrease in per capita water use by 2050. The state's current goal is a 25 percent reduction.

"These proposals are very preliminary, but we wanted to open the door for dialogue," said Mark Danenhauer, the Utah Rivers Council's rivers solutions coordinator.

Danenhauer noted that the state has made significant water conservation strides in the past decade, lowering its daily per capita water use from 321 gallons to 264 gallons - an 18 percent decrease. But he added that Utah can do much more, and cited recent public opinion polls that showed wide support for stronger water conservation measures.

Relatively speaking, "Water conservation is underfunded in Utah," Danenhauer said, contrasting the \$200,000 the Utah Division of Water Resources is spending this year on conservation programs versus the nearly \$4 million for the planning and construction of water projects.

The three draft bills, which Rep. Brad King, D-Price, has agreed to sponsor, essentially puts the state in a more proactive role when it comes to promoting and implementing water conservation measures, Danenhauer said.

The landscaping bill, he told lawmakers, will clear up what are often ambiguous county and city landscaping ordinances. Under the proposed legislation, municipalities would no longer be allowed to prohibit or limit the installation of low-water landscaping, such as xeriscaping.

By establishing a water conservation office, the state would be able to coordinate its various water conservation efforts with a dedicated staff and budget. And the facilities bill would provide "a mechanism" to identify water conservation goals and analyze opportunities, he said.

Division of Water Resources officials say they support many of the goals of the Utah River Council's proposal, but pointed out that some of the same ideas sit on their drawing board - and have thus far lacked for funding.

"A lot of this is already taking place in the division," said Warren Peterson, a member of the Utah Board of Water Resources. "What you'd be doing is creating fiefdoms that wouldn't have the economies of scale that the division does."

"I'm not saying more can't be done. What I am saying is that a lot of this is already in place."

But Danenhauer argued that his group's proposal will lead to savings, not just in water, but money.

Developing water projects has become "an old-fashioned solution, because the days of cheap water are over," he said. "Conservation is really a way to develop new water sources."

[jbaird@sltrib.com](mailto:jbaird@sltrib.com)

Board

Close Window

Send To Printer

## Cache officials are urged to take lead on water issues

By Arrin Newton Brunson  
Special to The Tribune

Salt Lake Tribune

Article Last Updated: 10/25/2006 12:47:39 AM MDT

LOGAN - It's time to dive in with the big boys, former Utah Rep. Evan Olsen of Young Ward told Cache County officials Tuesday night.

After getting the council to dip a toe into water policy several months ago - by persuading them to send a county representative to statewide meetings - Olsen is pushing Cache's elected officials deeper into the pond.

After Olsen's lead, Sen. Lyle Hillyard, R-Logan, recently sponsored a bill that became a law that allows the Cache County Council to direct water issues without a water conservancy district.

Cache County Secretary Lynn Lemon was designated the water representative and began traveling to meetings where the future of this desert state's scarcest resource is the topic of debate.

On Tuesday, Olsen said this just isn't enough. Cache County should be doing more than attending meetings, he said. Elected officials representing county residents should be hosting meetings.

There will come a time when drilling another well or buying water from farmers will no longer be sufficient to handle population growth, Olsen said. If other regions of the state proceed with proposals - such as building the Washiki Dam or raising Willard Bay to hold more water or running 200 miles of pipeline from Lake Powell to St. George - Cache County residents should have their interests guarded by their elected officials, he said.

Olsen recommended county-sponsored meetings involving representatives from each of the cities and towns in Cache County.

"What are your water needs that will take care of growth to the year 2030 or beyond? What are your plans to get more water and how are you planning to pay for it? How secure are your water rights? Will you be infringing on your neighboring towns? What do you suggest we do to preserve the water allocated to the region?" Olsen asked, offering to work part time at the effort to get things started. "If you bring everyone involved into the discussion, they will likely have more support for what the council finally decides to do."

Lemon and members of the Cache County Council were supportive of the Olsen's suggestions, though they took no formal action.

*abrunson@sltrib.com*

Wednesday, October 25, 2006

Salem residents seek water source options

[Print](#)

**NATALIE ANDREWS** - Daily Herald

There's high-speed Internet or dial-up. Cable or satellite for a viewing a favorite television show. Options are everywhere, and Salem residents are seeing options when it comes to their water source.

Purple stakes have popped up this month in yards across the city, signifying where the valve hook-ups will be for a new pressurized irrigation system.

Construction will start next summer, and city recorder Jeff Nielson said residents will have access to the water in spring 2008.

Residents who choose to connect to the new system will pay \$450 for the initial connection fee, between \$250 and \$300 to connect their sprinklers to the valve that the city places on their property and an average of \$25 per month to use it.

In the long run, residents will save on their culinary water bills, Nielson said. That's because once all the connection fees are paid, \$25 will buy all the irrigation water a resident wants, which is less than the culinary water fee.

Residents are excited for the secondary water source -- despite the fact that the initial cost to hook up will be several hundred dollars.

"It will cost a little money, but I think they'll pro-rate it," resident Doris Greenwood said. "We think it's a good idea."

According to the city's pressurized irrigation information sheet, the \$450 fee can be paid over a period of one or two years.

Todd Powell, president of the Sprinkler Repair Company in Spanish Fork, said it gets tricky if residents want to be able to keep both the culinary and pressurized irrigation connections for the lawn. For that, it can cost between \$800-\$1,000 because property owners would have to install a device to ensure irrigation water didn't back flow and contaminate the culinary water.

"There's a lot of mitigating factors that can make it more expensive," he said.

The total project will cost \$11,675,000. The city is paying for part of it with a \$5 million grant from the Central Utah Project, which does not have to be repaid. The other \$6 million is a 30-year loan from the Board of Water Resources, and the remaining \$675,000 is Salem's match to that loan.

City officials hope residents see the hike in water rates as an addition to infrastructure. Nielson said that growth is inevitable, and the city wants to be ready. Newer developments already have pipes for the pressurized irrigation system, just waiting for 2008.

Although the pressurized irrigation system will mean more water available for residents, it won't mean the city will lift the moratorium on building, which is in place because of power restrictions.

Resident Ilene Beal said she's excited to save money, but she said she'll miss the rural feel the ditches give Salem.

"I have small children, so it's probably a good idea to get the ditches covered up," she said. "Change happens, and as the city gets bigger, you have to utilize."

Sunrise Engineering will have finished planting the stakes in the yards by Oct. 27. If the location of the stake will not work, residents should call 423-7881 and leave their name, number and address before Nov. 10.

Natalie Andrews is available at 344-2561 or [nandrews@heraldextra.com](mailto:nandrews@heraldextra.com).

*This story appeared in The Daily Herald on page D3.*

[Close Window](#)

## Board

This is a printer friendly version of an article from **thespectrum.com**  
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

Article published Oct 20, 2006

## **CICWCD looks at pipeline potential**

### **• Residents ready with questions about board's plan**

By **MEG CADY**

[mcady@thespectrum.com](mailto:mcady@thespectrum.com)

CEDAR CITY - Residents filled the room at the Cedar City Library, ready with questions about the Lake Powell pipeline.

Alan Jensen, with Stanley Consultants, came with a presentation for the Central Iron County Water Conservancy District board about the project during the board's meeting Thursday.

Jensen presented two alternatives for handling the possible 20,000 acre feet of water from Lake Powell.

Resident Joe Hennessey left the meeting disappointed because he didn't get his questions answered.

### **Lake Powell pipeline**

Residents fired questions throughout Jensen's presentation, asking about the technical aspects of the project as well as what it could mean to their pocket books.

Hennessey wanted to know the project's cost, the cost of pumping water up to Cedar City and if he will be charged for what comes from his well.

The last estimates on the project are almost \$500 million, but Jensen admitted that is outdated.

The state will look at costs as a first step to the project; he guessed a new estimate will be available in January.

He admitted he doesn't know the cost of pumping, but it will be offset by energy gathered as water flows downhill to St. George.

"It's all a state project, so you get a percentage (of that)," he said.

Hennessey said he's afraid the project will be so expensive, no one will be able to afford to live here, stopping growth and making the project obsolete.

Resident Ted Arsenault argued that he'll be the one who has to move because he's paying now for a project that won't be complete for 15 to 20 years.

Scott Wilson, CICWCD general manager, said the maximum rate the district can charge for property taxes is .001, so it can't continually go up. The rest will be paid by user and impact fees.

Board members stressed they are just looking at the alternatives and seeing if Lake Powell water is something the area can afford.

Board member Justin Wayment stressed the district knows the area doesn't have enough water now, and exploring Lake Powell is part of planning for the future.

"We've got to see what sources are out there," he said. "We don't know if this is going to go, but we need to find out."

Jensen laid out two alternatives for handling Lake Powell water.

The first is a system where pipeline water will be filtered into the aquifer, recharging underground water and eliminating the need for a large, expensive water treatment facility.

The second is to use a regional water treatment facility and distribute from there.

Alternative one allows for flexibility with growth and uses the aquifer as primary storage.

"There's a benefit to everyone in this room with this concept," Jensen said.

With the second alternative, two water systems will be required: one for raw water and one for finished water.

Jensen said this system can be built in phases, but it must be sized correctly the first time, which means the district will have to predict growth and where it will be.

It will recharge the aquifer as well, but not as quickly as the first alternative.

Board members Steve Platt, Roy Urie and Leon Hyatt all voiced their approval of the first alternative.

Urie said he believes the first alternative is necessary to preserve the underground aquifer.

"So to put it in (the ground) is the answer in my mind," he said.

#### Water systems

Nolte Engineer Rod Mills reported the 1 million gallon water tank for the Phase I system is complete and delivering water to residents in the area, including Three Peaks Elementary.

Nolte Engineer Robert Haight brought plans for the district's Phase II system, which will eventually connect to Phase I.

The project, which includes a 2 million gallon storage tank, two wells and water service to subdivisions along Highway 56, will cost almost \$8 million.

For now, engineers project 1,258 connections will hook on to the system, and that number is expected to grow as more subdivisions come on the books in the area.

The system will be funded through grant money and impact and user fees; it will start to pay for itself immediately because the district already has enough users to support the project.

Haight estimated the system will be completed in the spring of 2008. Mills added each subdivision will bring in the required water rights and then some.

Finally, Eagle Valley Ranches residents sighed with relief after the board unanimously passed an agreement to take on the subdivision in exchange for its existing water system, water rights and \$15,000 in assets.

[Close Window](#)[Send To Printer](#)

## Plan would link Wasatch ski resorts

**Tunnels, snow sheds'25 most influential people' will meet in the governor's office**

By Patty Henetz  
and Mike Gorrell  
The Salt Lake Tribune

Salt Lake Tribune

Article Last Updated:10/17/2006 12:32:08 AM MDT

If Utah's ski resorts ever tripled the number of skiers they see each year, they'd tie Colorado's 2005-2006 record - and likely be suffering the same kind of transportation gridlock resort-bound motorists regularly endure on Interstate 70's Rocky Mountain traverse.

That's according to a memo circulated to the "25 most influential people in government, tourism and the ski industry," who will meet Nov. 3 with Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr. at the Capitol.

The meeting was arranged at the request of Sen. Carlene Walker to brainstorm the latest proposal to link Big and Little Cottonwood canyons with Park City: tunnels and roads with snow sheds to connect Snowbird, Alta, Solitude, Brighton, Park City Mountain Resort, The Canyons and Deer Valley.

Such a scheme would allow skiers to drive between mountaintop resorts instead of up and down canyon roads or Interstate 80, already subject to heavy traffic.

Walker, a Cottonwood Heights Republican, member of the Senate transportation committee and proponent of private investment in toll roads, was on vacation Monday and unavailable for an interview. But Huntsman spokesman Mike Mower said the governor had nothing to do with creating the talking points and said it was "premature to have this agenda that said the governor is open to reviewing this proposal."

The memo came from the office of Jeff Holt, vice president of Goldman Sachs' San Francisco office and a frequent contributor to Utah transportation and project finance discussions. It says the projects, dubbed the AltaBright Tunnel and CottonPark Interconnect, would tie the seven resorts in the tri-canyon area "into one 7-resort Megaplex."

"It will be possible to drive from any one resort to any other in less than 20 minutes," the memo says, adding the project would allow Utah "to seriously challenge Colorado for total resort experience . . . This type of grouping and packaging mimics Swiss/Italian Alps models."

Ski Utah President Nathan Rafferty said the ski industry didn't propose the meeting, but welcomed it as a way to plan ahead to avoid the kind of problems Colorado is having getting skiers to Vail, Aspen, Breckenridge and other resorts along the serpentine I-70.

"They're saying, 'Are we going to widen the freeway or build a monorail or some kind of train?' They're already way behind," Rafferty said. "We cannot afford to pretend our population isn't growing and the number of visitors to our resorts isn't increasing. Those canyons [Big Cottonwood and Little Cottonwood] can hold only a finite amount of traffic."

Ski Utah reported 4 million "skier days" for this past winter, an all-time record. A recent University of Utah study said the ski industry contributes \$811 million a year in direct spending annually to the state's economy.

A memo sent to those invited to the meeting says Utah could see 6 million skier days. The memo doesn't identify a source for the estimate; Rafferty said it wasn't Ski Utah.

But based on that estimate, the memo goes on to say the tunnels are the preferred method of adding skier capacity and reducing diesel emissions by 40 percent - another unsourced number.

The single-bore tunnel between Alta and Brighton would cost \$250 million or less, according to the memo. The Guardsman Pass seasonal road could be protected by snow sheds or a tunnel could be bored under it for \$50 million to \$150 million. Tolls, special finance districts and federal dollars would be the revenue and funding sources.

Utah Department of Transportation spokeswoman Bethany Eller said the agency's deputy director, Carlos Braceras, will attend the Nov. 3 meeting. However, UDOT hasn't been asked to do any engineering and has no money to offer the project. "It's just an idea right now," Eller said.

But not a new one. The idea is "nothing that hasn't happened lots of times before in the last 20 or 30 or 40 years," said Alta General Manager Onno Wieringa.

Save Our Canyons board member, historian and author Alexis Kelner said the proposal as presented in the memo was another in a list of resort-interconnect schemes "that would destroy the character of each individual little resort."

In 1945, Kelner said, there was a road planned between Alta and Brighton over Catherine Pass. In the 1960s, when he worked for the Salt Lake City water department, there was a proposal to dig a tunnel between Alta and Brighton.

The tunnel idea resurfaced during the mid-1980s when Kelner served on the Olympics feasibility committee. He recalled crashing a meeting called by then-Salt Lake City Mayor Ted Wilson to review a proposal to dig a tunnel that would connect to the ski areas via vertical elevators.

Lisa Smith, executive director of the environmental advocacy group Save Our Canyons, says the group would rather not increase canyon capacity.

"The Wasatch-Cache National Forest is one of the most heavily used in the country," she said. Boring tunnels and building roads would put pressure on the critical watershed. Besides, she said, "the last thing we would want the Wasatch to be identified with is a 'megaplex.'"

Rafferty agreed. "We don't feel that terminology is good. That's not advantageous to us. We have seven resorts that want to maintain distinct personalities. One big resort is not the aim."



**deseretnews.com**

Deseret Morning News, Tuesday, October 17, 2006

## Tunnels for skiers?

**By Ray Grass**

Deseret Morning News

Someday, in the distant future, skiers coming to Utah may be able to drive from Alta to Brighton in minutes instead of an hour, or head straight from Snowbird to Park City over a scenic route instead of a busy freeway.

These ideas and more are certain to be among the main talking points of a Nov. 3 meeting called by Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr. to discuss transportation issues related to Utah's growing ski industry.

Other topics will no doubt be those reviewed back in 1990 during site evaluations for the 2002 Olympics.

They include:

- Paving Guardsman Pass Road between Park City and Big Cottonwood Canyon.
- Digging tunnels from Brighton to Alta, linking Big and Little Cottonwood canyons; from Brighton to Snake Creek, linking Heber and the two canyons; from Salt Lake Valley to Snowbird; from Solitude to Iron Mountain in Park City; and from Salt Lake Valley to Snowbird to Solitude to Iron Mountain.
- Installing cableways from Brighton to Park City and from Snowbird to Park City.
- And installing a monorail or cog rail in the tunnels.

The proposed links were included in a study done to review transportation issues during the Olympics. Those same winter transportation issues could face Utah in the future.

Over the past four ski seasons, Utah's skier visits have increased from 3 million to 4 million.

Nathan Rafferty, president of Ski Utah, said consensus is that "the state of Utah (is wise) to be looking down the road. What we don't want is to find ourselves in the same position resorts in other states currently face with respect to transportation problems."

Colorado, for example, which hosts close to 12 million skiers a year, has one major access route — I-70 — to a dozen of its major ski resorts.

There was some confusion on Monday with respect to the upcoming meeting. Telemark News released a story and an agenda on "UT Governor's Office Secret Talking Points."

"The problem is," said Mike Mower, Huntsman's spokesman, "I have not seen an agenda, and this one did not come from our office. We've been asked to facilitate a discussion with people interested in (transportation) concepts, and we agreed in order to learn more."

The agenda suggested an AltaBright Tunnel that would tie Big and Little Cottonwood canyons together between Alta and Brighton. And a CottonPark Interconnect that would involve a tunnel or turning Guardsman Pass into a year-round road between Brighton and Park City. The two plans would connect Snowbird, Alta, Brighton, Solitude, Park City Mountain Resort, Deer Valley and The Canyons.

Lisa Smith, director of Save Our Canyons, said her group would have some concerns over work in the canyons.

"Our first concern is for the watershed. We recognize there will be growth, and we need to do everything possible to protect the watershed," she said.

Alexis Kelner, also with Save Our Canyons, said he was on the committee back in 1990, "and we have the same concerns now that we had back then. One of those is what their plans would be for dealing with the muck or debris they pull out of the tunnel? There will be tons of muck. And what debris will this release into the watershed?"

Onno Wieringa, general manager/president of Alta, said it is good to revisit the subject.



Deseret Morning News graphic

"Talk of an interconnect tunnel has been going on for a long time. This is just another flurry, but it's good to see what new technology is available, to see what works and see what problems can be solved. There are lots of transportation issues. Skiing is just one," he said.

Bob Bonar, president/CEO of Snowbird, said, "As skier days in Utah grow, it's important to look to the future and to be prepared. It makes sense to research the possibility of efficient, environmentally friendly ways to address potential transportation issues similar to those that already exist in other states. The canyons around the Wasatch Front do see busy days at times, so this discussion is a step towards mitigating existing and future traffic problems."

Lorraine Januzelli, public affairs officer with the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, said some of the same issues looked at in 1990 will also be addressed now. These include mitigating effects created by increased traffic, an increase in staff, reviewing permit systems "and, of course, water quality."

Roughly 80 percent of the water supply for the Salt Lake Valley comes from the two canyons.

There are, in fact, old mining tunnels connecting Big and Little Cottonwood canyons. In the winter, to avoid avalanche danger, carriers used the mining shafts to travel between canyons to deliver mail and goods.

But, as Mower said, despite the fact that the mysterious agenda calls for an action committee to "study and implement," this meeting is simply to look at future transportation issues.

*E-mail: [grass@desnews.com](mailto:grass@desnews.com)*

© 2006 Deseret News Publishing Company

Web address: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2006/10/061012185749.htm>[Print this page](#)

Source: Sandia National Laboratories

Date: October 19, 2006

Post to: [Slashdot](#), [del.icio.us](#), [Digg](#),  
[Furl](#), [Netscape](#), [Newsvine](#),  
[reddit](#), [Yahoo!](#) [MyWeb](#)

## Sandia Researchers Develop Contaminant Warning Program For EPA To Monitor Water Systems In Real Time

Sandia National Laboratories researchers are working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), University of Cincinnati and Argonne National Laboratory to develop contaminant warning systems that can monitor municipal water systems to determine quickly when and where a contamination occurs.

It's all part of the EPA's Threat Ensemble Vulnerability Assessment (TEVA) program to counter threats against water systems. The program uses a computational framework containing a suite of software tools that can simulate threats and identify vulnerabilities in drinking water systems, measure potential public health impacts, and evaluate mitigation and response strategies.

The EPA became particularly concerned about potential water system contamination after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on Washington, D.C. and New York.

U.S. water systems consist of large networks of storage tanks, valves, and pipes that transport clean water to customers over vast areas. By the very nature of their design, they provide multiple points for potential contamination -- either accidental or intentional.

Sandia is a National Nuclear Security Administration laboratory.

"Our involvement dates back about three years ago when the EPA became aware of some LDRD [internally-funded Laboratory Directed Research and Development program] research we were doing to model threat assessments to water systems," says Sean McKenna, Sandia project researcher. "We started working with the EPA in March 2003."

During the ensuing three years, the collaborative team created world-class software to address water security issues. The software can aid in the placement of sensors during the design stage of a contaminant warning system. It can also determine when and where a contamination event happens, track changes, and determine when the event is over.

"Through careful adaptation of classical algorithms, we are able to solve sensor placement problems on networks that are 100 times larger than those previously cited in the water security literature," says Jon Berry, who works on sensor placement methods for the project. "Our team recognized and exploited mathematical structure that hadn't been associated with water security before."

Bill Hart, Sandia project lead, says the software "helped the EPA meet several internal milestones over the past year," including developing a contaminant incident timeline for the EPA's WaterSentinel program and working with a large city water utility to determine the best locations for sensor placement. The WaterSentinel Program is being developed in partnership with select cities and laboratories in response to a Homeland Security Presidential Directive that charges the EPA to develop surveillance and monitoring systems to provide early detection of water contamination.

The EPA will test Sandia's event detection methods later this summer at a large water system.

"These tests [that the EPA will conduct] will assess the event detection methods so that we can better understand how to respond more intelligently to contaminations as they occur," Hart says.

Sandia is also leveraging this project with another research project funded by the American Water Works Association Research Foundation to develop a sensor simulator that offers a more complete understanding of how contaminant warning systems may ultimately function when operated in water distribution systems. Sandia researchers are developing a software algorithm that mimics the performance of water quality sensors in common use today.

Sensor characteristics such as noise, drift, and sampling frequency are incorporated into a user-friendly software module that enables system designers to assess on-line data signals for event detection that also take into account imperfect sensors and changing water quality baselines that are encountered during routine system operation.

The event detection methods and its sensor simulator have been specifically tailored for use with a variety of affordable, off-the-shelf sensors commonly used by water utilities to monitor water quality.



*Just Checking: Bill Hart, project lead for the Sandia team that developed water system software, does some field checking in the Albuquerque foothills. (Photo by Randy Montoya)*

Can't find it? Try searching ScienceDaily or the entire web with:

Google

☐ Web ☒ ScienceDaily.com

Board

Close Window

Send To Printer

## Mountain Regional Water investigated by the state

### Law was broken when water was diverted from river, critics claim

Patrick Parkinson, Of the Record staff  
The Park Record

Article Launched: 10/11/2006 01:00:00 AM MDT

Summit County's Mountain Regional Water Special Service District this week expects to begin a costly process to clarify with state officials how the county can divert water from the Weber River near Peoa.

The state Division of Water Rights has been investigating Mountain Regional since state officials recently received complaints that because of failing wells in South Summit, the county began digging trenches in the Weber River in order to pump enough water from Peoa to the gated Promontory subdivision in the Snyderville Basin.

The issue upset neighbors in eastern Summit County about four years ago, when the Summit County Commission proposed construction of the Lost Creek Canyon Pipeline from Peoa to Promontory.

"Mountain Regional's exchange application (in 2002) drew approximately 36 protests, including a timely protest from [Davis and Weber Counties Canal Company]," a letter to Utah State Engineer Jerry Olds, from an attorney for Davis and Weber Counties Canal Company, states.

But, according to Andy Armstrong, general manager for Mountain Regional, the Davis and Weber Counties Canal Company provides water to the private Summit Water Distribution Company, the county's chief rival in the Snyderville Basin.

The Division of Water Rights gave permission to Mountain Regional to pump from wells drilled by the county near Peoa.

Water from the Weber River, however, cannot be directly diverted into the pipeline's well field, said Ross Hansen, a Division of Water Rights engineer.

"We should have on a piece of paper exactly what is happening in the wells," Hansen said. "We think at the state engineer's office that there is enough gray area with the situation that we have asked Mountain Regional to submit a new exchange application as a way to remedy that."

Expecting protests to be filed against the new application, Hansen said the state could deny the request from Mountain Regional to alter its water right.

"The new application will have to go through all of the typical processes that any change application has to go through," Hansen said. "If the application were denied, then we'd have a situation where somebody is diverting water without appropriate water rights."

John Flitton, an attorney for Summit Water Distribution Co., reported the alleged violations to the state in April.

"They breached the river channel," Flitton said in a recent interview.

A lawsuit filed by Summit Water Distribution in Third District Court June 30 asks for a jury to declare that Mountain Regional officials violated their permit by illegally diverting water from the river.

"I think if there are any technicalities that we can be held accountable for by Summit Water, we'll be held accountable for it," said Armstrong, who rejects the charges made by Summit Water. "All along, I've said that we're in a gray area with the state and we're working with the state to clarify that."

Water from the Weber River is used to help charge Mountain Regional's wells in Peoa.

But critics claim this requires a permit from the state to divert surface water, which Summit County hasn't apparently obtained, Hansen said.

"The state doesn't want there to be any ambiguities, so, the new application will indicate we're applying for surface and groundwater," Armstrong said, insisting nobody's downstream water rights are currently being impacted by the project. "Our application for a new exchange is just clarifying exactly where we're pulling the water and how we're taking the water."

The Lost Creek Canyon Pipeline uses neither deep wells nor a diversion of surface water, traditionally regulated by the Division of Water Rights, Armstrong said.

"We haven't harmed any third parties downstream and we're doing what we're entitled to do," he said.

Close Window

Send To Printer

## Tiny town is abuzz about mega-resort

By Mark Havnes  
The Salt Lake Tribune  
Salt Lake Tribune

Article Last Updated: 10/09/2006 01:10:04 AM MDT

BIG WATER - Town Clerk Jeania Joseph is right. With plans for a 100,000-square-foot spa, \$6 million villas and \$1,200-a-night hotel rooms, the swanky new resort under construction near Lake Powell won't be serving the "Wal-Mart and Kentucky Fried Chicken crowd."

No, try the Martha's Vineyard and Ritz-Carlton set. Think Trump, not tramp; Rockefeller, not Rocky Balboa.

In fact, the \$200 million Amangiri resort - slated to open in early 2008 just east of southern Utah's tiny town of Big Water - is expected to become a premier escape for wealthy world travelers.

Why? Well, the hype is based partly on who will be running the place: Amanresorts.

The Singapore-based hotel-management group oversees posh playgrounds around the globe - from France to French Polynesia - including its only other U.S. resort, in Jackson Hole, Wyo.

Another reason for the high expectations? Location, location, location.

The Kane County resort - set in the sandstone spires and jagged walls of southern Utah - is a quick drive from Glen Canyon Dam, Grand Canyon National Park and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Guests will be able to water-ski Lake Powell, hike the Vermilion Cliffs and fly-fish the Colorado River.

"When you take into account who will manage [Amangiri], combined with the idyllic setting in canyon country, it might be the number one resort in the United States and one of the top 10 in the world," said Homi Vazisdar, managing director of project developer Canyonland Development LLC, from his office in San Francisco.

Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr., a frequent guest at Amanresorts during his diplomatic days in Asia, applauded the resort plans in an August 2005 announcement. He said the resort will bolster Utah's international appeal among jet-setters.

The southern Utah resort will feature a 34-room hotel (renting for up to \$1,200 a night), 28 private villas (6,000 square feet, going for \$6.2 million) and a mammoth spa.

The project began more than five years ago when investors, who had acquired about 2,000 acres, approached Vazisdar with their vision for a resort.

"I told them the best resort operator in the world was Aman," Vazisdar said.

The head of Amanresorts was impressed when he inspected the site, Vazisdar recalled, but he wanted to plop the hotel on an adjacent section of about 200 acres owned by the Bureau of Land Management.

That parcel eventually was obtained in a swap, giving the federal government land next to Glen Canyon Recreation Area. Congress approved the exchange two years ago and the Kane County Commission gave its final project clearance in 2005.

The development is the first of two planned phases. Vazisdar said visitors will approach the gated resort from a winding, unpaved road off U.S. 89.

"You kind of get this lost sense of where you are and suddenly there is this canyon dream world," Vazisdar said.

Kanab resident Jim Matson, who is acting as a facilitator for the project being built by Salt Lake City-based Okland Construction, said crews are laying the sewer and water lines. Buried propane tanks will supply the facilities with gas, and a microwave tower will go up on a nearby butte for telecommunications.

Matson said the project is expected to increase Kane County's assessed valuation by 20 percent and employ at least 110 workers to cater to guests.

"They will probably do everything for you but brush your teeth," Matson said.

Craig Smith, a Salt Lake City attorney for Canyonland Development, notes Amanresorts has a reputation of taking care of its workers - offering good wages and other incentives.

"Aman likes to hire and keep people on career-type jobs in guest-service relations," Smith said. "These won't be seasonal, low-paying jobs."

In nearby Big Water, the fire department probably will benefit by contracting with the resort to provide fire and emergency medical services.

Fire Chief John Altidy said such a pact could pump \$100,000 into the department and help pay for a new fire engine to replace the town's outdated 1972 pumper truck.

"We're a strictly volunteer department," Altidy said, "but are mulling over various plans to guarantee there is one crew working around the clock."

Joseph, the town clerk, said all of Big Water is buzzing about Amangiri.

"There are some who moved here to get away from growth," she said. "But others, like those who are raising children, want to see something that can offer jobs."

mhavnes@sltrib.com

Board

This is a printer friendly version of an article from **thespectrum.com**  
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

Article published Oct 6, 2006

## **CICWCD talks water management**

### **• State engineer offers input on planning for future**

By **MEG CADY**  
[mcady@thespectrum.com](mailto:mcady@thespectrum.com)

CEDAR CITY - Resident Doug Hall walked away from Thursday's Central Iron County Water Conservancy District meeting with a slightly different picture of the county's water situation.

State Water Engineer Jerry Olds met with some 100 residents to go over the Groundwater Management Act, which will affect three Iron County basins, and the Colorado River situation.

"I thought it was interesting," Hall said. "I thought he did a very good job, very informative."

But Hall still had a few questions, the answers to which Olds admitted he didn't know.

No one seems to have the answers to basic questions, like how much water is the valley pumping out of the aquifer and what is the current water rights situation, both questions Hall believes should be settled before water policy is set.

Olds indicated he will know when he goes through the process of creating a groundwater management plan for this area.

### **Groundwater management**

Some basins, like Cedar Valley that continues to grow, already are mining their groundwater, which means they take out more groundwater than is recharged.

The top six basins of concern are Beryl, Pahvant, Cedar, Parowan, Curlew and Salt Lake valleys.

Olds said he uses the Beryl/Escalante Valley as an example.

It has an average recharge of 33,000 acre feet per year, but from 1993-2003, it pumped an average of 83,000 acre feet.

One acre foot of water is equivalent to 325,851 gallons, which will serve four people for a year at the Iron County average of 220 gallons per person per day.

The residents of the basin followed all the regulations to obtain their water rights.

"It's just unfortunate that we wrote more checks than the checking account had," Olds said. "As a result of that, we're seeing a significant groundwater decline out there."

Under HB 228, which the Legislature passed in its last session, Olds can go into those troubled valleys and create a plan to help residents get back to a long-term safe groundwater level.

These plans are based on the system of prior appropriation, which sets forth a priority date with each water right. That means those who have earliest priority get their water first.

This could have far-reaching economic and individual impacts.

"It is my intent to meet with people, to present the data and information, and present a plan that they can review," Olds said. "We need to protect that resource. In my opinion, I think this bill is a major step forward in groundwater management in the state of Utah."

For the Cedar Valley, Olds said he will determine a safe yield, but "we have not done that as yet."

He estimated recharge is around 35,000 to 40,000 acre feet, and the valley is drawing out 42,000 acre feet.

"Again, we've written too many checks," he said.

Olds said he's unsure how many water rights are allocated in the valley, only that it is over allocated.

Colorado River

Olds finished his presentation by telling residents about the Colorado River situation.

Utah has 1,369,000 acre feet of water; it is currently using 1,007,500 acre feet per year.

That leaves 361,500 acre feet of water not in use.

"That's an awful lot of water," he said.

Unfortunately, there are more requests for that water than what is available.

Several public agencies have applications on file, but if that water is not developed in a 50-year period, Olds will review their application and see if they truly need the water and qualify for an extension.

"The honest truth is some of those applications will never be developed," he said. "I think that those areas that are growing and need that water should have that water."

The Iron County portion of the Lake Powell pipeline will have to come from the unused portion.

The Board of Water Resources, a separate entity, determines how to reallocate water. Olds confirmed that if Iron County gets the water, there isn't a cost associated with those water rights.

If Iron County doesn't get water from that portion, the district will have to purchase water from current water rights holders.

---

Board

This is a printer friendly version of an article from **thespectrum.com**  
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

Article published Oct 5, 2006

## **Water protection sought for town**

### **• Kanarraville seeks county's help to protect creek for its drinking water**

By MEG CADY  
mcady@thespectrum.com

PAROWAN - Kanarra Canyon has become a popular spot for hikers and campers from all over the country. It features a beautiful creek and fantastic waterfalls.

The problem is that the creek provides drinking water to the people of Kanarraville.

Town Board members Kay Carter and Barbara Munford came before the Iron County Coordinating Council on Wednesday to ask for help in protecting their drinking water source.

### **A growing problem**

Munford admitted she loves to hike up the scenic trail to the narrow slot canyon that attracts so many other groups, but said people are destroying the area.

"I feel like they're ruining our canyon," she said.

The trail is eroding from foot traffic, and residents find trash, like beer bottles and diapers, in the stream.

Carter said she's counted groups of 500 students hiking the area at one time. A water pipe has become exposed and bent from people walking over it.

Other problems include speeding along the road, which goes through a residential neighborhood, and dust from the traffic.

Scott Hacking, Department of Environmental Quality district engineer, came to discuss the town's options to restrict access to the canyon.

The property belongs to the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, but restrictions will need to come at the local level.

Jim Martin, Division of Drinking Water environmental scientist, said because Kanarraville already has a water management plan for the area, there's little the division can do.

Kevin Carter, director of SITLA, said selling the property will be complicated because the area has been in public use for at least 10 years and it's part of a wilderness study area.

The road currently has RS 2477 designation, which is granted by the federal government to guarantee public rights of way.

Carter said if the county wants to relinquish the designation, SITLA would have no objections to Kanarraville closing off the road. But cutting off access will be difficult because the area is so popular.

Martin said commissioners can pass a countywide ordinance to protect the water resource.

County Planner Reed Erickson said another option is for Kanarraville to create a zone outside its town limits with the agreement of the county to restrict use in that area.

"That may be more applicable than a countywide ordinance," he said.

Carter and Munford agreed to meet with county representatives to discuss a possible solution.

Dispatch services



Also during the meeting, Cedar Consolidated Communications Center Manager Linda Petty and Cedar City Police Chief Bob Allinson met with county leaders to request additional dispatchers for the call center.

Allinson said with the growth in Iron County, dispatch calls have increased so much that additional staffers are needed; he hopes the state will pay for one and the other agencies will pay for two. Each person will cost \$50,000 for salary and benefits.

Adding three will allow the center to keep three people on hand for three shifts a day, Allinson said.

The dispatch center handles calls from the county and all the cities plus 911 and the Utah Highway Patrol.

Petty said the center already is 2,000 calls ahead of last year.

"They're getting to the point where they can't handle it (all)," she said.

Dispatchers are receiving or making a call every three minutes. They've had to start prioritizing 911 calls.

"The liability has got me really concerned," she said.

The question before leaders was how to equally split up the cost of two additional dispatchers between cities.

The current formula is based on number of calls and property tax values, which could really impact Cedar City and Brian Head.

County leaders asked Allinson to look at other ways of distributing the cost, possibly even a special service district that can charge taxes, to pay for it. He will bring his proposals to the next meeting on Nov. 1 in Paragonah.

---

Board

This is a printer friendly version of an article from **thespectrum.com**  
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

Article published Oct 4, 2006

## **CICWCD to have state engineer at meeting**

By **MEG CADY**  
[mcady@thespectrum.com](mailto:mcady@thespectrum.com)

CEDAR CITY - Thursday's Central Iron County Water Conservancy District meeting will be anything but routine with State Water Engineer Jerry Olds there to discuss the valley's water situation.

Olds said the district invited him to meet with the board and the public. He plans to discuss the water situation within the district as well as ground- water management in troubled basins in this area.

CICWCD General Manager Scott Wilson said he invited the state engineer to clear up misunderstandings about the area's water and educate the public regarding the impact of what may lie ahead.

"It's part of our ongoing responsibility to educate the public," he said.

There have been contradicting reports of how much water the area has and how many people it can support.

"There has been a lot of misunderstanding in the community regarding what our overall resources are," Wilson said. "We think we have ample water, but we may not have as much as we think."

On the other issue, Olds now has the responsibility to go into troubled basins and instigate a management plan to bring those areas into a sustainable yield of water under the Groundwater Management Act passed during the last legislative session.

Three of the most troubled basins in Utah are part of the district: Beryl/Escalante Valley, Cedar Valley and Parowan Valley. All three of these basins are over-allocated in water rights.

Wilson said he hopes to leave some time for questions from the public.

"People are going to leave that meeting with more questions than answers, I guarantee you," he said.

Also during the meeting, the district board will conduct some regular business, such as approving the bills and passing a resolution for a \$450,000 tax anticipation note to cover some construction financing.

The tax anticipation note goes through a bank. It's needed to finish up some of the budgeted items for this year, but the district can't wait for the tax money to come in January.

"It's like a short-term revenue bond," he said. "It just will allow us to take care of those budgeted items."

Board

Close Window

Send To Printer

# The Salt Lake Tribune

http://www.sltrib.com

Article Last Updated: 10/03/2006 12:51 AM

## Metro water district now has title to aqueduct

The Salt Lake Tribune  
Salt Lake Tribune

PROVO - The Bureau of Reclamation announced here Monday that it has handed over ownership of the 42-mile Salt Lake Aqueduct and its support facilities to the Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy.

The title transfer is something of a formality. Metro has operated the underground pipeline - which provides municipal and industrial water to a significant portion of the Wasatch Front - for the past 50 years.

But the ownership change also provides an easement to Metro and the Provo River Water Users Association over the area where the water is diverted into a pipeline below Deer Creek Dam.

The process to shift the aqueduct from federal to local control has been ongoing for several years.

Rep. Chris Cannon and Sen. Bob Bennett each sponsored bills that led to the "Provo River Transfer Act" that President Bush signed a little more than two years ago.

"This title transfer is a model of how title transfers should be done and an example of cooperative conservation at its best," said William Rinne, acting commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, said in a statement.

The Bureau of Reclamation also plans to transfer later on ownership of the 21.5-mile Provo Reservoir Canal in Utah County to the Provo River Water Users Association, BLM officials said.

*-The Salt Lake Tribune*

**deseretnews.com**

Deseret Morning News, Tuesday, October 03, 2006

## Utah water year above average

*And cloud-seeding efforts to get under way on Nov. 15***By Joe Bauman**

Deseret Morning News

For the second time running, Utah has ended the water year on a positive note. But that won't stop a Sandy company from working to increase winter precipitation in the state.

The 2006 water year ended midnight Saturday, when October began. By Monday, federal experts were able to calculate that the year's precipitation across Utah had totaled 103 percent of the 30-year average. While slightly better than typical, that wasn't as good as the previous year's precipitation.

"2005 was a little better," said Ray Wilson, hydrologist with the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service office in Salt Lake City. That year, he said, "we ended up with 125 percent."

The '05 water year marked the end of a six-year drought, and this immediately past water year confirmed that dry weather was over for most of the state. That was true "especially in the north," Wilson added.

"Down south ... most of the basins were a bit below average." But they did not drop to the parched conditions of recent years.

2006 water year precipitation ranged from 115 percent of normal on the Weber River drainage, to a low of 84 percent in southeastern Utah, he said.

Meanwhile, North American Weather Consultants, Sandy, is revving up for its annual cloud-seeding projects. Since the spring runoff — which results from the mountain snowmelt — provides most of the water for Utah reservoirs, cloud-seeding seeks to increase winter snowpack.

Projects in central and southern Utah will begin Nov. 15 and others in the state around Dec. 1, said Don A. Griffith, the company's president. Such projects have been going on in parts of Utah since 1974, he added.

A legal advertisement listed potential customers for the project, which is licensed by the Utah Division of Water Resources. They include several counties, water conservancy districts and ski resorts.

Griffith said the state may pay around 50 percent this year. He preferred not to discuss dollar amounts, however.

Storm systems often don't produce much precipitation, he added. Winter clouds may lack enough freezing nucleoli, which are usually composed of dust particles.

When clouds blow across mountaintops, ice accumulates around the particles. As these become heavier they fall out as snow.

Some sort of impurity, such as a bit of dust in the air, is needed to serve as a nucleus where the ice can accumulate. Or snow may fall from higher in a cloud, providing the nucleus. Cloud seeding, also called weather modification, releases a fog of extremely fine silver iodide crystals, around which ice can collect.

The "very tiny particles of silver iodide" leads to artificially generated ice crystals, Griffith said. The droplets evaporate, depositing liquid on other ice and spurring the formation of snowflakes.

Artificially created ice crystals look and behave like natural ones, he said.

Contrary to what some may imagine, North American Weather Consultants doesn't use aircraft to seed clouds.

"We have ground-based equipment that disperses these silver iodide particles on the windward side of these mountain barriers," he said. Winds carry them to the right sections of clouds.

Griffith estimated that 150 or 160 generators will be used for the project in Utah.

The silver iodide does not present any environmental problems, he said. Studies carried out using federal funds showed "typically ... no significant environmental impacts whatsoever."

A company Web site states that the U.S. Public Health Service holds that concentrations of 50 micrograms of silver per liter of water is an acceptable level. With cloud seeding using silver iodide, the typical concentration of silver in rainwater or snow is less than 0.1 microgram per liter, it adds.

"As another example, the concentration of iodine in rainwater from seeded clouds is far below the concentration found in common iodized table salt," adds the Internet site, [www.nawcinc.com/wmfaq.html](http://www.nawcinc.com/wmfaq.html).

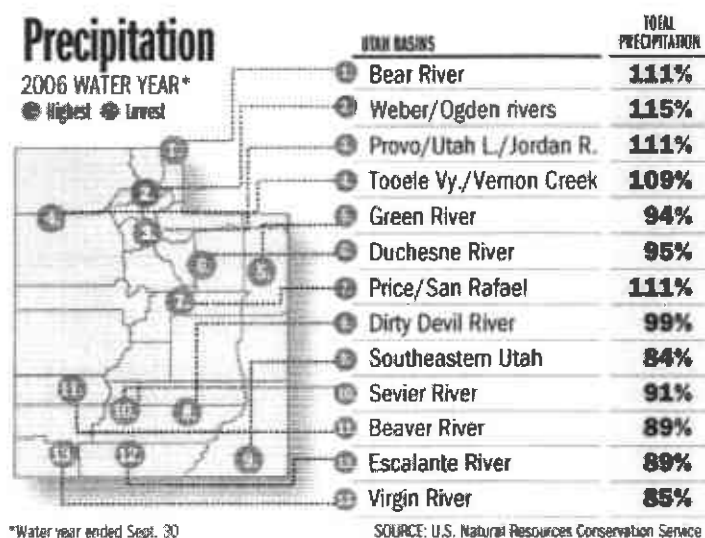
Also, the company maintains that seeding is not "robbing Peter to pay Paul." That is, weather modification doesn't steal moisture from downwind areas. It contends that of the total atmospheric moisture passing over any point, the proportion falling naturally is small, typically less than 10 percent to 15 percent.

Cloud seeding may increase the precipitation to less than 20 percent of the total available moisture, the site says.

But does it result in significant water increases?

Yes, said Griffith. Scientists compared high-altitude areas in other states with places in Utah where there is a correlation in the normal, non-seeded precipitation. After seeding, they can check both the Utah targets and the control sites to see if the effort helped.

Griffith added, "It looks like we're seeing 10 to 15 percent increases in the seeded target areas that we're attributing to the cloud seeding."



Deseret Morning News graphic

E-mail: [bau@desnews.com](mailto:bau@desnews.com)

© 2006 Deseret News Publishing Company

Close Window

Send To Printer

## Plentiful rain rehydrates Utah's supply

### Another wet year could help quench Lake Powell's thirst

By Joe Baird  
The Salt Lake Tribune  
Salt Lake Tribune

The final numbers aren't in yet, but Utah's 2006 water year, which ended Saturday, has provided the state with another normal to above-normal year of precipitation. National Weather Service hydrologist Brian McInerney said last week that with the exception of San Juan County, in the southeast corner of the state, all regions of Utah have received enough rain and snowfall since last October to recharge groundwater supplies and refill most reservoirs.

And the good news, McInerney says, is that another moist year could be around the corner, given what appears to be a moderate El Niño cycle building in the equatorial Pacific.

"We're moving from neutral conditions to warmer ocean surface waters from Ecuador to Australia," said McInerney, who is based at the National Weather Service's Salt Lake City office. "We're now in a slight El Niño. But it's very possible we're going into a moderate El Niño, which traditionally means wetter conditions for southern Utah, and to a lesser extent northern Utah, depending on how far north the subtropical jet stream goes.

"When you look at an El Niño event," he added, "the wet years outnumber the dry years."

That could be good news for Lake Powell, the state's largest reservoir. After a year of normal to above-normal precipitation in the upper Colorado River Basin, a hotter, dryer-than-normal spring ushered in an early snowmelt - which in turn led to a below-average year for inflow into Powell, the largest water-storage facility in the upper basin.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation currently pegs the reservoir's 2006 inflow at just 72 percent of average.

"While drought conditions eased in 2005 and the inflow of 2006 is not as extremely low as what occurred in 2000 through 2004, drought conditions in the Colorado River Basin persist," the Bureau said in a statement.

Lake Powell is currently at just 49 percent of capacity with a water-surface elevation nearly 100 feet below full pool, according to the agency.

Bear Lake, in northern Utah, has also been slower to refill. But hydrologist McInerney says the state's other major reservoirs are at normal to above-normal levels for this time of year.

"The reservoirs have been drawn down because of use, but overall they've gained ground because of the increased runoff during the past few years," McInerney said.

Meanwhile, water usage, at least in the Salt Lake City area, continues to be significantly lower than at the beginning of the decade - proof positive, the city's water-conservation coordinator says, that conservation efforts that began during the five-year drought have taken root.

"The summer of 2006 was hotter than any summer we've had, so we expected to see higher use," said Stephanie Duer. "But in terms of our baseline year - 2000 - we're still way down. In Salt Lake City we had some days this summer with more [water] deliveries than the same day last year, but we were also hotter.

"What you see," she added, "is that while there were days of more water usage, we also saw days with less water usage, which means water use is being based on the weather, which is exactly what we want to see."

In 2000, Duer noted, the Salt Lake City water district delivered 190 to 200 gallons per capita household per day on the hottest days. This year, peak deliveries ranged from 170 to 182 gallons.

"That's a significant decrease in usage," she said. "In August our highest peak delivery was 162 [gallons per capita], and August was hot."

The new water year, which begins today, appears to be getting off to a promising start. McInerney says a big storm system is expected to move into Utah this week, bringing with it what he expects to be a "pretty significant" amount of rainfall.

"These aren't scattered thunderstorms. This is a big system, a wide weather pattern that is anticipated to produce a lot of rain and additional moisture for the soil," he said.

jbaire@sltrib.com

**deseretnews.com**

Deseret Morning News, Sunday, October 01, 2006

## Willard Bay-linked bill OK'd

**By Suzanne Struglinski**

Deseret Morning News

WASHINGTON — The federal government may soon study whether it could raise the height of the Arthur V. Watkins Dam that holds Willard Bay in Weber County, based on a bill approved Wednesday in the House.

The bill calls for the Bureau of Reclamation to do an environmental study and figure out how much it would cost to raise the dam. Boosting the height would increase how much water Willard Bay can hold and help the water supply of the Weber Basin Project area, according to the bill.

"The bottom line is we need more water in Utah, and it's got to come from somewhere," said Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah. "It would be a good idea to see if we can increase the capacity of Willard Bay, which is already a critical part of our water infrastructure in northern Utah."

The bill authorizes \$1 million for the study and allows the federal government and the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District to equally share the cost, with the district contributing in-kind a similar amount to cover the cost of the study.

According to Bishop's office, raising the dam by just a few feet could dramatically increase its capacity. The study authorized in the bill will determine exactly how much the dam could be raised, but the increase could be as much as 50,000 or 70,000 acre-feet.

A subcommittee of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee took up the Senate version of the bill last week, which allows the measure to move forward to a full committee and eventually a full Senate vote.

"Utah is the second-driest state in the country, and Weber County doesn't have enough water to meet its growth needs right now," said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah. "Thousands rely on the Weber Basin reservoirs for drinking water and agriculture. Weber's one of the fastest-growing areas in the state, so it's crucial that we increase water capacity to meet the increased demand."

Tage Flint, the water district's general manager, said the legislation has been five years in coming and will help increase drinking-water supplies. "We are very pleased that it's moving along."

*E-mail: [suzanne@desnews.com](mailto:suzanne@desnews.com)*

© 2006 Deseret News Publishing Company

Sunday, October 01, 2006

Mayor: No pressurized irrigation means no water in AF

[Print](#)

## CALEB WARNOCK - Daily Herald

American Fork's mayor says he is confident that residents will vote in November to double their water bills to pay for a pressurized irrigation system once they understand the city will run out of water without it.

Without the new irrigation system, the city will face water shortages by 2011 and would be forced to cease new building permits, Mayor Heber Thompson said. In order to make new water sources available by 2011, the city must act now.

Thompson said he is worried residents will be surprised by the proposal to double water rates and won't see why the system is critical to the future.

The system would use 2,000 acre-feet of water the city has purchased. Right now, 60 percent of the city's drinking water is being used on landscaping, which means the water won't be enough for American Fork's projected population in 2011, said John Schiess, an engineer hired by the city to study the problem.

Engineering studies have shown that there is enough water available to the city to supply drinking water for all residents of the city even at build-out, when American Fork's population is projected to be between 40,000 and 50,000 residents, Thompson said.

But that doesn't account for the water being used on landscaping, Schiess said.

In addition, the aquifer that feeds the city's wells is dropping.

Though water levels fluctuate naturally, over the past three to four decades water levels in the aquifer have fallen as much as 15 feet on average, indicating that more is being taken out over time than Mother Nature can recharge.

Dropping water levels are not an immediate cause for alarm but are a warning sign that the city cannot continue to drill more wells to meet all future water demands.

The United States Geological Survey has launched a comprehensive investigation of the dropping aquifer that affects all of north Utah Valley and is expected to release those results later this year.

The wells are "the only source we have for water now and that is diminishing," Thompson said. "We have to take some steps."

The city has known about the need for a pressurized irrigation system for at least a decade but past city councils have put off making a decision, he said. The decision cannot be put off any longer.

"The mayor and the City Council feel the pressurized irrigation system is the best option," he said. "We need to take action now. The timing is pretty critical."

If residents approve the pressurized irrigation system this fall via a \$46 million bond issue -- and with it a doubling of their water bill -- the city would be able to just get the system fully in place in time to prevent water shortages in 2011, he said.

The city has purchased more than 2,000 acre-feet of water from the Central Utah Project that could be used in the pressurized irrigation system to meet future demand, Thompson said.

If a pressurized system is not installed, the water would have to be treated and brought to culinary grade before it could be added to the existing water system.

Treating the water would be both unnecessary and costly in the long term and would mean residents would eventually pay more than double on their water bill, he said. Installing a citywide pressurized irrigation system will be cheaper in the long run.

The city will be mailing residents a fact sheet to explain the situation within the next month, Thompson said.

To pay for the \$46 million system, the City Council is proposing to float 25-year general obligation bonds that would be guaranteed by property taxes but paid with the new revenue represented by the doubled water bill, said Cathy Jensen, American Fork finance officer.

The city is not proposing any property tax increase related to the bonds.

Caleb Warnock can be reached at 443-3263 or [cwarnock@heraldextra.com](mailto:cwarnock@heraldextra.com).



Monday, October 02, 2006

New water tank to give Orem storage boost

[Print](#)

**MICHAEL RIGERT** - North County Staff

Twenty million gallons of water. Two hundred and sixty feet in diameter and 50 feet deep. Twenty million dollars.

Those are some of the staggering statistics of a hulking new water storage reservoir roughly the size of a small sports stadium currently going up in the foothills of Orem above the city cemetery.

A joint project between Orem and the Central Utah Water Conservancy District, the gargantuan water tank will give the city's water storage capacity a significant boost, particularly during peak summer usage.

Chris Tschirki, Orem's water resources division manager, said the city and the district are splitting the \$20 million price tag for the project and its storage space. Each entity will have 10 million gallons of water storage capacity.

"It will ensure that we always have water in our tank, literally," Tschirki said.

Construction on the reservoir began in July 2005 and its anticipated the tank will be fully operational by December 2007, he said.

With the new reservoir coming on line, Orem and the district will have a combined total water storage capacity of 49 million gallons, an asset for a growing city with increased water demands.

In the past, Tschirki said, Orem's water storage capacity during hot summer months has been pushed to its limits. In July, the summer peak water flow was 57 million gallons a day, he said.

"During the summer, most of the water will be used for irrigation," Tschirki said.

Cort Lambson, a project manager with the Central Utah Water Conservancy District, said the substantial water storage provides the district with operational storage to help meets its water quality regulations.

The 10 million gallons also serves as an emergency reserve should there be a problem with the district's nearby Utah Valley Water Treatment Plant, which can treat up to 80 million gallons of water a day, he said.

The majority of the water in Orem's reservoirs comes from the Provo River, with a small portion coming from natural springs and surface water, Tschirki said.

Several diversion points in the river remove the water and transport it to the district's water treatment plant before it's transmitted into the reserves. Orem uses 95 percent of the water treated at the plant while Provo uses only about 5 percent, he said.

The tank is constructed out of reinforced concrete with 30 concrete wall sections constituting the exterior wall and 164 mammoth columns supporting the roof. It will be subdivided into six concrete vaults for valving, metering and overflow. The structure's footings, foundations, tank drainage system, 18 wall sections and the majority of the support columns have been finished, Tschirki said.

The new reservoir will be hydraulically connected to an existing 15-million-gallon water storage tank just to its west.

Lambson said the joint water reservoir project is most likely the largest of its type in Utah. There are other larger water storage tanks in the state, he said, but they are rectangular shaped and aren't as high as the Orem/district tank.

Drum-shaped, the new tank will have a 25-mile tension cable wrapped around its concrete outer wall, not only reinforcing the concrete but making the structure seismically sound.

"It actually sucks it all in an inch," Lambson said. "They build a lot of this type in California."

With the limited space constraints of the site, this is the highest capacity water reservoir that could be built on the property's footprint, he said.

*This story appeared in The Daily Herald on page D2.*

[Close Window](#)

Board**deseretnews.com**

Deseret Morning News, Sunday, September 24, 2006

## Water auction turns into a headache for Lehi

*City offers ways to return shares that were sold***By Amy Choate-Nielsen**

Deseret Morning News

LEHI — A recent letter from Lehi's lawyers to the Lehi Irrigation Company outlines new ways to untangle issues created when the nonprofit company held an illegal water-share auction in January.

The letter proposed a procedure for the company to return water shares that were sold at the auction. While the auction was unwound in June, the irrigation company has struggled to find ways to return shares that, so far, have proven very difficult, if not impossible, to retrieve.

Ken Rushton, Lehi's attorney, declined to discuss the details of the letter because negotiations with the company are under way. However, Rushton said the city was looking to resolve the missing shares of all affected shareholders, not just shares that are connected to the city.

"We've had ongoing letters and communication with the irrigation company all during this process," Rushton said. "It's been a matter of ongoing discussion and negotiation as to how to resolve these issues."

Also, during the negotiations, city officials have asked members of the irrigation company's board to resign. Rushton said city leaders thought the resignations "needed to happen from the very beginning."

"We have made that recommendation a number of times over the course of our discussions," Rushton said.

So far, former Lehi Irrigation Company president Stan Lewis has resigned, but Ruston said he is unaware of other responses from the company.

When contacted by the Deseret Morning News, Lewis declined to comment.

Attempts to contact Lehi Irrigation Company's attorneys also were unsuccessful.

Lehi Mayor Howard Johnson said the city asked the board to resign as a part of correcting circumstances surrounding the auction. Johnson said he was concerned that if the same board members remained in place, another illegal auction could take place again in the future.

"The city is a major stockholder, and as a stockholder, we wanted things to be right," Johnson said.

Johnson said the company cannot retrieve at least 38 shares that were sold at the auction. The auction was originally unwound because the company sold more shares than necessary to pay late assessment fees.

Since then, some of the 38 shares have traded multiple hands and now belong to the city. Shares a city has received cannot be retracted according to state law. Although private citizens can resell or trade their water shares, cities cannot. That puts the shares Lehi received as a result of the auction in a kind of black hole, and they cannot be returned.

Some shareholders, however, got back their shares. Evan Johnson and Jim Garside, who filed a lawsuit in 4th District Court against the irrigation company when their share was lost, received their share last week.

Johnson also received \$2,050 from the company for legal fees, Johnson said.

"It's turned out wonderful," Johnson said. "It's unfortunate that a shareholder would have to go to such extreme measures to have irrigation companies do their duties. There seems to be a misunderstanding about who owns the company."

Rushton said the city is not currently planning on filing a lawsuit against the company.

E-mail: [achoate@desnews.com](mailto:achoate@desnews.com)

**deseretnews.com**

Deseret Morning News, Monday, September 25, 2006

## Jordan Valley Water gaining a new chief

*Retiring leader being replaced by longtime assistant manager***By Doug Smeath**

Deseret Morning News

After 18 years of tremendous growth in the Salt Lake Valley's water needs, the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District is getting a new general manager.

The district announced this week that David Ovard, a 35-year veteran with the district who has been at the helm since 1989, will retire at the end of this year. He will be replaced by longtime assistant general manager Richard Bay.

The district contracts with 19 cities and water suppliers throughout Salt Lake County, serving all areas of the valley except Salt Lake City.

During Ovard's tenure, the district has dealt with drought and booming growth valleywide, which have strained the district's water resources and necessitated the development of new sources. Most recently, the district struck a deal with the Central Utah Water Conservancy District to collect more than a third of the water diverted by the Utah Lake System pipeline, which will draw water from Strawberry Reservoir. Construction will begin in 2007.

The district is also playing a key role in the Southwest Jordan Valley Groundwater Project, which uses reverse osmosis to reclaim water contaminated by decades of mining by Kennecott Utah Copper.

The district fought over the past decade for Kennecott to play a larger financial role in the project than had initially been proposed. In March, the first cleanup plant began pumping and filtering water. It will deliver drinking water to about 4,300 homes in South Jordan, West Jordan, Riverton and Herriman. A second plant, which will be run by the district, is scheduled to be up and running in early 2009.

In 2003, Ovard also oversaw a change in the way the district charges for water. Starting in July 2003, summer water rates were made higher than winter rates, in an attempt to encourage water conservation during peak usage months.

E-mail: [dsmeath@desnews.com](mailto:dsmeath@desnews.com)

© 2006 Deseret News Publishing Company

Board

**deseretnews.com**

Deseret Morning News, Tuesday, September 12, 2006

## Agencies drop protest of water plan

**By Joe Bauman**

Deseret Morning News

Four federal agencies have withdrawn their protests concerning a groundwater pumping project in Nevada. They say an agreement announced Monday with the Southern Nevada Water Authority should protect the environment from the Spring Valley Project.



Rancher Dean Baker, left, of Baker, Nev., discusses groundwater issues Monday in Carson City, Nev.

Chad Lundquist, Associated Press

Spring Valley is entirely within Nevada. But the agreement is seen by the parties as a template for resolving conflicts about a larger groundwater pumping scheme, the Clark, Lincoln and White Pipe Counties Groundwater Development Project.

Another part of the overall plan is Snake Valley, which overlaps the Utah-Nevada boundary.

The Spring Valley Project would pump up to 91,000 acre-feet of water yearly to Las Vegas. Snake Valley could provide as much as 25,000 acre-feet. Five other valleys would also contribute.

The Snake Valley section has drawn the most objections from Utah environmentalists and ranchers worried that Las Vegas is intent on raiding the state's water. They fear that the water table will drop, damaging natural areas and ranches.

But Spring Valley, in White Pine, Nev., also impacts Utahns.

- The Cleveland-Rogers Ranch of about 4,000 acres, operated by the Corporation of the Presiding Bishop of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and part of the church's Welfare Services Department, is located in Spring Valley. The ranch provides assistance to the poor in the form of crops and raising cattle.

In August, lawyer Bruce Findlay sent a letter on behalf of the Presiding Bishop of the LDS Church to Tracy Taylor, the Nevada state engineer, expressing concern about the potential effect on water rights. The letter urged the engineer to hold off deciding whether to approve the project until a U.S. Geological Survey study about groundwater is completed. That is scheduled for late 2007.

J.C. Davis, spokesman for the Southern Nevada Water Authority, said the church had no direct involvement in any of the negotiations leading to the new agreement, "but they are a beneficiary of this agreement."

The agreement was reached after six months of negotiation, according to the Interior Department.

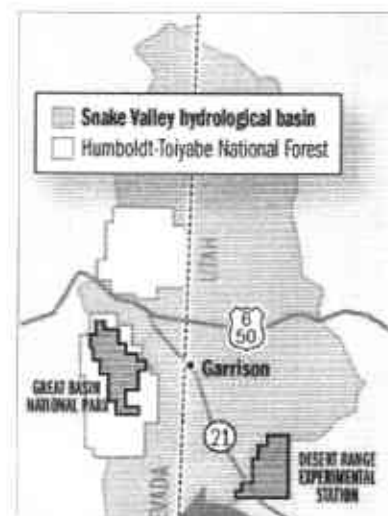
A monitoring network will allow church officials and any other interested parties to check how the aquifer responds to pumping, Davis said.

- Some of Spring Valley's water flows into Snake Valley, which has an aquifer shared by the two states.
- The agreement may pave the way for the federal government to withdraw objections it might have concerning the Snake Valley Project.

"I believe the general feeling among the parties was that this agreement can perhaps serve as a model" in reviewing the status of other valleys in the pumping plan, said Frank Quimby, an Interior Department spokesman in Washington, D.C.

According to news releases from the Southern Nevada Water Authority and the department, the agreement involves the authority, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the National Park Service. It resolves objections the four agencies had to the Spring Valley Project.

It sets up a system that allows water development while protecting the environment. A network to monitor the groundwater will be built and the parties will prevent or



mitigate adverse environmental impacts.

"There are already in the neighborhood of 25 existing monitoring well facilities in Spring Valley," Davis said in a telephone interview.

About a dozen more monitoring wells would be installed at locations wanted by the federal agencies, and shallow groundwater facilities will help monitor the water table.

Also, production wells will show the water table in Spring Valley. All of these facilities will be "effectively serving as an early monitoring system," he said.

Before any groundwater effects could propagate to areas of concern to the federal government, such as Great Basin National Park near Baker, Nev., they would be detected by the monitoring system.

"The agreement also allows for them (the federal agencies) to work with us to take any necessary measures to protect those resources," Davis said.

That includes "curtailment of pumping" or moving pumps if necessary, he said. The federal government and Nevada water agencies are dedicated to protecting existing water rights and the environment, he said.

According to Quimby, the agreement sets up groups that will operate in "this three-M system — this monitoring, managing and mitigation system that they agreed to."



E-mail: [bau@desnews.com](mailto:bau@desnews.com)

© 2006 Deseret News Publishing Company